

A Smart Strategy for the Peatland Communities of North-West Kildare (2022-2027)

Vision: A network of engaged and dynamic peatland communities whose social, economic & environmental assets are sustainably managed and developed for the benefit and wellbeing of all.	Purpose: The <i>SMART Rural Alliance</i> is an ambitious agent of change promoting active collaboration on issues of common concern. In this way we share our expertise & skills in advocating for inclusive development & an equitable <i>Just Transition</i> .
--	---

Pillar	Objective	Strategic Action	Key Enablers	When
1. Stakeholder Engagement	1.1 Fulfil advocacy & representation role 1.2 Define geographic scope of strategy 1.3 Align areas, themes & resources of common interest 1.4 Build alliances & synergies with national, regional & local enterprise networks. 1.5 Embed SRA vision, purpose & strategy within national, regional & local enterprise strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Clarify scope of advocacy role & function ❖ Identify & agree locations & communities to be covered ❖ Build alliances and network reach across counties ❖ Plan, promote & implement a stakeholder engagement plan (public meetings, survey, etc) throughout the area ❖ Compile a stakeholder list of key resources & align with social, economic & environmental partners & networks ❖ Ensure engagement with <i>Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy, Regional Enterprise Plan, Just Transition Plan, Circular Economy Strategy, County Development Plan, Local Economic & Community Plan, Local Development Strategy, etc</i> 	SRA SRA SRA, CKLP SRA, KCC, CKLP, KPPN SRA, KPPN SRA KCC, JTF, LCDC, CKLP	Q3 2022 Q3 2022 Q3 2022 Q3 2022 Q3 2022

2. Identity	2.1 Promote the concept of a <i>Living Landscape</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensure that the unique aspects of local identity and culture are documented, interpreted and showcased ❖ Utilise key facets of local identity within a storytelling/placemaking strategy ❖ Develop a wayfinding strategy to allow ease of navigation and mobility to key points/locations of social, cultural and historic interest. 		
3. Wellbeing	3.1 Enhance the resilience & wellbeing of communities & individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Develop, protect and promote blue and green infrastructure as an aid to wellbeing, physical & mental health ❖ Crowdfund a 12-month nature calendar to promote wellbeing activities & practices in the active outdoors ❖ Digitally map all local wellbeing/wellness locations and resources 		
4. Climate Action & Biodiversity	<p>4.1 Become an exemplar in environmental action & sustainable living.</p> <p>4.2 Enhance local biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Promote enlightened environmental practice in line with EU & Government policy ❖ Pilot & test best practice climate action, decarbonisation & sustainability initiatives for communities, businesses & individuals ❖ Rehabilitate/restore industrial peatlands to highest possible standard in this region. ❖ Highlight & protect existing Natura 2000 sites (SAC, SPA & NHA). ❖ Monitor & ensure best environmental practice to promote pollinators, biodiversity, carbon capture & general ecosystem health. 		

	<p>4.3 Seek National Park status for former BNM industrial peatlands.</p> <p>4.4 Sustainable Tourism, Just Transition & Community solidarity.</p> <p>4.5. Knowledge Capital & Research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Align stakeholders to build consensus and define scope for the National Peatlands Park (NPP). ❖ Engage with local communities to promote NPP concept (schools, meetings, access to clear information online & site visits of rehabilitated areas, etc). ❖ Create a designated website to show ongoing progress of NPP & outcomes of environmental actions. ❖ Set agreed targets at local level & work with ecologists / third level institutions to show impacts on an annual basis (e.g. carbon flux results or breeding Curlew nest sites, etc). ❖ Develop a tourism network to create synergies between the NPP and blueway/greenway & placemaking initiatives ❖ Create story maps for key attractions/hospitality/activity businesses & sites of high ecological importance. ❖ Promote <i>Leave No Trace</i> & use of the <i>Climate Positive Toolkit</i> throughout region. ❖ Ensure that settlements connected by <i>Blue & Green</i> infrastructure build scale through linked theme of eco-tourism and the unique aspects of local culture and identity. ❖ Build and develop long term partnerships with Higher Education Institutions, researchers, ecologists & environmental agencies with NPWS and key local stakeholders 		
--	---	---	--	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Promote synergies & mutual benefits with clear environmental & tourism goals. 		
5. Green Economy	5.1. Transition to low Carbon Economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Increase use of renewable energy, retro fitting of dwellings / businesses & green transport services in region. ❖ Build technical infrastructure to promote the digital capacity of region to facilitate working from home & the development of innovation hubs & co-working spaces. ❖ Work with businesses (including multinational CSR/ESG strategies) on carbon offset goals to help fund local development peatland rehabilitation. ❖ Use <i>Natural Capital Accounting</i> initiatives to enumerate and record social, economic and environmental benefits ❖ Encourage businesses to monitor their carbon footprint https://www.climatetoolkit4business.gov.ie/ 		

Key Performance Indicators:

Notes & Abbreviations:

