

Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund 2010 Completion Report

Name of Applicant _____Future Proof Kilkenny_____

Project Title _____Kilkenny Transition Town Projects and Events_____

Amount received (€) _____

Description of Project (as per application)

The goal was to continue to implement Transition Town actions through ongoing awareness raising and practical projects. These activities included:
1. To increase local food awareness by progressing the Fruit Tree project and planting 200 fruit trees and soft fruit bushes in schools, charitable organisations and public places in Kilkenny.
2. Organise local food related events as part of the "Savour Kilkenny" October food festival to include Apple Day and several fun and educational events.
3. Repeat the successful "Green Screen" program: A series of films and documentary screenings examining the issues of climate change, energy, sustainability, justice and the environment.
4. Develop and host workshops under the following themes: Developing a resilient local economy, Home energy reduction and efficiency, Impacts of peak oil and climate change, Reducing your carbon footprint.
5. Host "re-skilling" courses in gardening, fruit tree maintenance and food preservation.

How has the project partnered with the local community?

<p>Future Proof Kilkenny is a registered Transition Town initiative with the International Transition Network and a member of the Irish Transition Network co-ordinated by Cultivate in Dublin.</p> <p>As part of our work in 2010/2011 we continued to develop links with the following local organisations, government bodies, and enterprises: Keep Kilkenny Beautiful, LEADER, Heritage Council, Camphill communities, the Good Shepherd, the Kings River Centre, VHI, EPA, State Street, the local IFA, Rothe House, The Hole in the Wall, and various schools involved in the Green Schools program and the 400 Fruit Tree project.</p> <p>We have continued to develop relations nationally with Cultivate, Green Works, Feasta and the Irish Seed Savers Association.</p> <p>In addition, through the conference 'Local Economies, Strong Communities' we forged links with the international community when speakers came representing the Colibri movement, the REEL network, and the town of St. Nollif in France.</p> <p>Future Proof Kilkenny is made up of volunteers who live, work and employ people in Kilkenny City and County</p>
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By these community actions and awareness-raising initiatives, what aspect of National environment policy has been addressed by this project (e.g. Waste Reduction, Climate Change, Biodiversity, Water Conservation etc.)?

The core aim of a Transition Town is to reduce the carbon footprint and to build local resilience and self-reliance in the context of sustainable use of resources.

In this context the Transition concept dovetails:

- the National Climate Change Strategy (as it seeks to encourage individuals to reduce emissions and raising awareness on climate change),
- The National Biodiversity Plan as the 400 Fruit Tree project ensures that a percentage of the varieties of fruit trees planted are Irish heritage varieties. (NBP section: Action 35 (1) Promote activities to assist the conservation of genetic resources for food, agriculture and forestry; including through on-farm conservation; and developing public awareness)
- National Energy Efficiency Action plan 2009-2020 (by seeking a reduction in carbon emissions through energy awareness and efficiency and raising awareness on climate change)
- 2009 Programme for Government statement -We will conduct a review of our National Food Security Policy to develop resilience in food production capacity to future proof against substantial rises in price and diminishing availability of oil and to meet the challenge of Climate Change, page 11.)

In addition the work of FPK provides an interface whereby local community actions can complement, support and inform local government decision making.

Local Agenda 21 is a process which facilitates sustainable development at community level. How has this project contributed to developing *Sustainable Local Communities*?

By raising awareness of the positive opportunities that tackling Climate Change and Peak Oil will bring and by presenting a compelling vision of what a low carbon, low energy world will look like this project has engaged local communities pro-actively in making a transition towards a sustainable future.

By planting more community orchards and training people how to care for these orchards through the pruning and grafting workshop.

By developing unique and fun ways to engage with the public through events organised for the Savour Kilkenny Food Festival.

Project Start Date _May 2010_____

Project Completion Date _May 2011_____

Description of method of completing this project

Over the past year Future Proof Kilkenny has run awareness raising events, talks, films, re-skilling workshops, fruit tree plantings and other events. These were promoted through local newspapers, local radio, our website and facebook page, and email shots (our list now stands at over 500).

Specific actions for the 2010-2011 period include the following:

Organised “The Green Screen”

Organised a season of 7 feature films in the Autumn of 2010 and Spring 2011 which dealt with environmental issues which were shown mostly at the Hole in the Wall establishment in Kilkenny city. These included

The Money Fix: November 11th 2010
The End of the Line: November 25th 2010
The Yes Men fix the World: December 9th 2010
The Vanishing of the Bees, March 10th 2011
Food Inc, 14th of April 2011
The Real Dirt on Farmer John, 21 April 2011
The Economics of Happiness, March 24th 2011

Organised and hosted the Local Economies, Strong Communities Conference May 2010.

In May 2010 we helped organise and host this conference which had around 70 attendees. The goal of the conference was to initiate a wider debate on developing local solutions to the economic, ecological and social challenges facing Ireland. By bringing together experienced campaigners and economists from France, the US, Australia, the UK and here in Ireland, it is hoped to develop a local response to a multiplicity of challenges.

Organised Talks and Seminars:

Understanding the Irish Crisis from a Global Perspective: A talk with Nicole Foss : April 8th 2011

We were delighted to welcome Nicole Foss to Kilkenny for a public lecture on the Financial Crisis and Peak Oil. Nicole writes under the pen name of “Stoneleigh” at [The Automatic Earth](#) about the inter-relationship of energy and finance with a focus on how individuals and communities can prepare for what she describes as the coming second great depression.

Stoneleigh Lecture: 4th August 2010

At this lecture Nicole Foss spoke about Peak Oil and the financial crisis.

Through the Looking Glass: On September 28th 2010 Vinay Gupta co-author of “Winning the Oil Endgame” gave a lecture on the subject of peak oil and crisis management and is noted for his work in Haiti in providing emergency shelters.

Progressed the 400 Fruit Tree Project

The 400 Fruit tree Project is enormously successful. In 2010/2011 we continued to plant orchards in Kilmanagh National School, beside the King’s River centre in Ennisnag (40 trees), the Hebron Community Garden, and the Newpark Close Community Garden. At each event staff and children were involved with digging the

holes, planting the trees, putting in stakes and securing the trees. Each planting usually included an informal presentation on the importance of fruit trees, where food comes from, pollination, apple varieties etc. This project is truly inspirational with everyone involved enjoying and benefitting from the planting.

Celebrating the Fruit Tree Project: June 21 2011

To celebrate our achievements over the previous year in the 400 Fruit Tree project and to remember the lives of Susie Long, Barbara Gill, Avril Duffy (Kilkenny Earthwatch group) and Steve Clayton (late husband of Tisha Warner - 400 Fruit Tree project) a stone plaque was unveiled at the Orchard site in Kilkenny Castle.

Organised and Hosted Workshops at the Electric Picnic

FPK took part in Cultivate events at the Electric Picnic 2010. This included a workshop/talk on the Transition Town movement in the Green Room tent of the Body & Soul area and manning the Transition Town stand outside the Cultivate "Do Tent".

Participation in Savour Kilkenny Food Festival 2010

In 2010 we participated by coordinating several events including the Apples Galore Project stand at the Forgotten Skills tent, flour milling, a local food tour, and a puppet show.

At the Apples Galore stand we:

- Showed people how to make apple juice the time honoured way using a traditional apple press, and invited people to bring their own apples for juicing.
- Showed people how to make fruit drinks using the pedal power on the "fender blender" bike juicer.
- Had people take part in traditional apple games including apple bobbing, fork apple and the longest peel competition.
- Made hot, local spicy apple juice which we offered to people for free.
- Gave tips on planting your own orchard with experts from Irish Seed Savers.



Pressing apples at Apples Galore

Food For Thought food tour of Kilkenny

We led a guided walking tour of several food producing sites in Kilkenny city which was aimed to show how food can be grown in the city. The first stop was the Community Orchard at the Castle Park with a short description of the Fruit Tree project. Then we walked to the home of Cllr. Malcolm Noonan to look at keeping hens in an urban setting. We stopped off along the way at a butchers who has his own abattoir close by, one of the last remaining abattoirs in the city. Then we visited Rothe House gardens and people heard how the garden was developed and how important it was to understand the historical and archaeological context of the garden which formed the basis for the choice of plants including an orchard and vegetable beds. Finally, we visited the community garden and orchard at the Good Shepherd.

The Goose-girl in the well- Puppet Show

We had the help of Camphill to bring a magical puppet show to the food festival. It was an adaptation of the Grimms fairy tale "The Goose Girl at the Well" and was performed in the Kid's Tent on the Parade with musical accompaniment.

Flour Milling

The Forgotten Skills tent is all about re-skilling, that great corner stone of Transition Town thinking. In 2010 year we coordinated a demonstration of milling wheat using a traditional mill stone.



Milling Flour

Coordinated a Fruit Tree Grafting and Pruning Course

A fruit tree pruning and grafting course was held on April 16th 2011. Kevin Dudley of the Irish Seedsavers Association gave a demonstration on how to prune apple trees and how to graft scion wood onto rootstock. Some individuals who had been involved with fruit tree plantings attended so that they can care for their new orchards.



A newly grafted root-stock

Developed the Future Proof Kilkenny Website and Email Contact List

The FPK website and email contact list conveys information on FPK events and

educates people on the issues of resilience in the face of peak oil, climate change etc. In the last year we continued to host information, courses and events relating to i like-minded local and national groups and individuals. The email contact list is now at about 600 contacts. Additionally, many people get information about FPK events through Facebook contacts.

Results Obtained

It is challenging to measure the impact in general of the work of Future Proof. For instance we have anecdotal evidence of people using the website as a portal for information. However on a project and event specific basis we can state the following:

The seminars and talks that we organised attracted between 25-50 people per talk.

The Green Screen attracted between 10 and 30 people per film.

The numbers of people attending the Savour Kilkenny events were high, for example around 15 people turned up for the food tour. It is unquantifiable to estimate the numbers who visited the Apples Galore stand but those staffing the event were run off their feet. It was extremely busy. The numbers for the puppet show were around 10.

Seven people came to the grafting and pruning workshop.

Around 75 people came to the Local Economies, Strong Communities conference.

Around 30 people attended the “Through the looking Glass” talk.

Around 40 people attended the Stoneleigh Lecture.

Applicant Details **Brian Dillon, Paul Brennan, Oonagh Duggan**

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Project Co-ordinator **Brian Dillon, Paul Brennan, Oonagh Duggan**

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Signed _____

Date _____

Closing date for submission of completion reports:

Completion reports for Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership projects should be submitted to the relevant Local Authority by 5pm on Monday, 2nd May 2011