

# Grow, Eat, Compost, Repeat: Empowering Communities in Soil regeneration

## North-West Ireland City Region - Ireland

### Short description

The Local Green Deal (LGD) in the North-West Ireland City Region aimed at promoting **sustainability through soil regeneration**. It focuses on creating a circular economy by educating communities, businesses, and organisations on producing high-quality microbial compost. The LGD supports biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and sustainable food systems while addressing legislative challenges in food waste management. It involves collaboration among local government, businesses, and community groups to pilot composting practices and foster environmental awareness.



### Industry/Sector

- Cross-sector between Energy & renewables
- Construction & built environment
- Tourism

### Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- KPM Soils
- Donegal County Council
- Clonmany Community Garden
- Café Banba
- Market House Café

- Inish Forestry
- Clonmany Tidy Towns
- Clonmany Montessori PreSchool
- Clonmany AfterSchool
- The Square Bar
- Inishowen Co-Op
- Simply Inish
- Clonmany Mental Health Association
- Spraio agus Sport
- The Conservation Volunteers
- Acorn Farm Project, Derry
- Clonmany Community Centre

## Scope of LGD

- The scope of the LGD is to **increase soil regeneration** in the North-West-Ireland City Region **through education, awareness-raising, and piloting** the production of biological compost within a circular economy system. It focuses on assisting community growers, community gardens, local businesses, and citizens in demonstrating the capacity for soil regeneration **using specific methods to produce high-quality microbial compost within circular economy practices**. It further aims to promote soil regeneration in the context of the circular economy and carbon sequestration to contribute to local climate action, **highlighting legislative challenges** related to food waste and community composting, and exploring solutions to these obstacles.

## Concrete measures/commitments

- **Donegal County Council** commits to providing funding for additional workshops and demonstrations, disseminating composting practices across decarbonising zones and the wider city region, and supplying green materials (e.g., grass cuttings) from council playgrounds.
- **KPM Soils** commits to hosting information sessions and demonstration sites and providing expertise in creating living compost.

- **Clonmany Community Garden** commits to piloting the Johnson-Su bioreactor in their garden, attending workshops and using the compost as a community resource.
- **Inish Forestry** commits to supplying approximately 0.25 tonnes of native wood chips and indigenous microorganisms.
- **Clonmany Community Pantry** commits to supplying a minimum of 50 litres of unused vegetables.
- **Market House Café & Café Banba** commits to providing at least 40 litres of used coffee grounds.
- **Clonmany Tidy Towns** commits to applying 120 litres of Johnson-Su microbial compost/extract by Autumn 2025.
- **Clonmany Montessori Preschool & AfterSchool** commits to facilitating children growing plants using the Johnson-Su compost.
- **The Square Bar** commits to incorporating compost and extracting it into their plant displays by Autumn 2025.
- **Inishowen Co-Op** commits to providing wire mesh, fabric, and other materials and publicising the project via social media.
- **Simply Inish** commits to providing 50 plastic buckets for compost measurement.
- **Clonmany Mental Health Association** commits to allowing access to the installation site for 12 months and attending practical workshops.
- **Spraoi agus Sport** commits to hosting information sessions and providing facilities (seating, projector, refreshments).
- **The Conservation Volunteers** commits to applying 20 litres of Johnson-Su compost and 50 litres of extract in growing spaces.
- **Acorn Farm, Derry** commits to applying 20 litres of Johnson-Su compost and 50 litres of extract in their projects.
- **Clonmany Community Centre** commits to organising LGD signing events, contacting participants, and publicising workshops.

# Strabane's Positive Energy District (PED)

## North-West Ireland City Region - Ireland

### Short description

The Local Green Deal (LGD) in the North-West Ireland City Region aimed at promoting net-zero. The Smart Derry Strabane Programme seeks to invest £2m funding to create a Positive Energy District Smart Energy Living Laboratory (PED/SELL) in Strabane. The project seeks to create an at scale environment providing a platform that allows energy generation, distribution, storage forecasting and balancing to be intelligently carried out across different energy sources using Strabane Town Centre as a genuine “living laboratory”.



### Industry/Sector

- Construction & built environment
- Energy & renewables
- Mobility & transport

### Parties of LGD/Participating parties

- Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) Local Government.
- North West Regional College, Academia.
- Western Health and Social Care Trust, Large Company.
- Strabane Business Improvement District, collection of 278 SME's.
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Public Administration (Housing).

- Education Authority Northern Ireland (EA), Public Administration (Education).
- Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE), Large Company.
- Evolve Natural Gas, Large Company.
- British Telecom (BT), Large Company.
- Translink, Large public transport company.

## Scope of LGD

Strabane's Positive Energy District (PED) aims to eliminate fossil fuel reliance, become a net exporter of renewable energy, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. This initiative will enhance local energy security, lower bills for residents, businesses, and public services, while also reducing energy poverty. By establishing the PED in Strabane town center as a Smart Energy Living Lab, it has the potential to boost energy literacy, foster economic growth through innovation, and serve as a model for sustainable energy use. The pilot will create an 'at scale living laboratory' integrating energy generation, distribution, storage, and forecasting, using Strabane as a genuine test environment. Key objectives include:

- Establishing a diverse, scalable test bed with public services, commercial enterprises, and residential areas.
- Reducing carbon emissions in alignment with national targets.
- Increasing local energy resilience to climate change and geopolitical disruptions.
- Demonstrating reliable, sustainable energy for wider adoption across the NW Region and Northern Ireland.
- Creating a local energy market to improve economic resilience and affordability.
- Driving sustainable economic growth through new products, services, and knowledge.
- Supporting climate justice and capacity building for a net-zero transition.
- Stimulating high-value jobs in energy and related sectors.
- Providing energy data to fuel research.
- Fostering innovation across the energy sector and beyond.
- Developing a flexible, dynamic energy system.

## Concrete measures/commitments

### Embedding

- Reduce PED stakeholders energy consumption by 10%
- Achieve a 50% or greater renewable energy share within the PED energy mix by 2029

### Strengthening

- Reduce PED stakeholders energy consumption by a further 10%
- Achieve a 75% or greater renewable energy share within the PED energy mix by 2031
- Export a net annual surplus of renewable energy equivalent to at least half the amount of fossil fuels consumed by 2031

### Growing

- Eliminate, or fully abate all CO2 emissions from all remaining use of fossil fuels within the PED