



# ClimAtlantic Project

Carlow County Council, the South-East Regional Authority [Ireland]

## Context

CLIMATLANTIC aims at developing strategies at regional and local level towards the reduction of the carbon footprint in the European Atlantic Area.

The project will focus in four essential issues:

1. mobility
2. energy
3. territorial management
4. social behaviour

Based on these four thematic strategies, partners (France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom) will develop a resulting common strategy for the Atlantic Area. The below described pilot action in South-East Ireland was carried out under the Energy pillar.

## Description and Main Objectives

Carlow County Council consumes approximately 8 million kWh of electricity per year to run all of its operations, equating to a total electricity bill of €1.25 M per year. To reduce the expense and carbon footprint of Carlow County Council, a pilot action was developed. It consisted of identifying and implementing energy efficiency improvement measures targeting the most energy consuming activities of Carlow County Council: water supply, wastewater treatment, building usage and public lighting. These measures included: efficient lighting retrofit, pump replacement, caretaker training, aeration comparison, control systems, equipment sizing, etc. Project partners also worked on a series of pilot demonstration actions to validate the priorities of the strategy.

Based on preliminary assessments, the expected energy savings from each measure were calculated prior to commencing monitoring. These expected savings were then compared with actual energy savings recorded during the monitoring period. For these tasks, the Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency carried out the pre and post energy monitoring on each site. Where the monitoring has revealed that a measure's estimated energy savings were not achieved, a number of key recommendations have been made by Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency to Carlow County Council.

Carlow County Council has made a commitment to reduce its energy consumption by 3 % per annum from 2009 to 2020. The 2012 pilot measures contributed to approximately a 1.5 % reduction in energy consumption that year. The measures will continue to deliver savings as they are kept up in the following years.





## Implementation Strategy

CKEA had put forth the project proposal in consultation with the SERA (South-East Regional Authority), and acted as the support structure for Carlow County Council, managing the project delivery from a technical stance. In addition, CKEA and Carlow County Council worked with a consultant on producing technical specifications for some of the projects and standard procurement documents. In addition, they promoted energy saving initiatives and disseminated the agenda of the project.

To implement a global project, the work plan will be executed in two steps: technical and politic. In this framework, the project will be developed following these steps:

- 1) Constitution of four think tanks with experts from all partners;
- 2) Validation of the strategies through a set of joint transnational pilot action;
- 3) Promotion of an Atlantic debate with regional and local authorities with the collaboration of existing networks of regional and local authorities;
- 4) Final congress and joint approval of a Strategic Atlantic Agenda for Sustainable Urban Development for the reduction of carbon footprint.

The conclusions of the final report of the pilot action reveal that the most effective measure monitored was that of pump replacement. Second was the lighting upgrade of the County hall. On this basis of these findings the CKEA will identify all potential opportunities to replicate these measures across the Carlow county stock.

The innovation in terms of good practice from this project would be in terms of procurement and training. The training element of the project meant that the end user was learning how his current plant/systems and new energy saving systems were operating. Green procurement guidelines were followed in order to ensure the use of life cycle costs for any energy saving technologies. The good practice used in the ClimAtlantic project was to host a training session for all water services caretakers to educate them on energy saving technologies and best practice. This project is now being used to influence decisions by the new water utility Irish Water.

## Budget

The South-East Regional Authority of Ireland managed the ERDF co-funded and Interreg IVB ClimAtlantic project for the implementation of the pilot. The total cost of the measures implemented in Carlow county in 2012 (supply, installation and commissioning of energy efficient equipment. training and energy monitoring equipment) was € 73,000.

*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. The sole responsibility for the content of this factsheet lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EASME nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.*



## Time frame

Start date: 2011- End date: 2012

## Contacts & Links

Sheevaun THOMPSON

Research & Policy Officer

Email: [sheevaun.thompson@stippcoco.ie](mailto:sheevaun.thompson@stippcoco.ie)

Website: <http://>

[www.climatlanticproject.eu/eng/index.php](http://www.climatlanticproject.eu/eng/index.php)