



## THE ROAD TO COP 26

On 1st of November 2021 representatives of Corca Dhuibhne/ Dingle Peninsula 2030 set off on a journey north to Glasgow for COP26. With the support of the ESN Dingle Project, they set off hoping to learn more about the benefits and challenges of travelling over 700 km in an electric vehicle. Alongside this, the trip acted as an opportunity to learn more about other bottom-up sustainability initiatives which could inspire further work and build networks moving forward. At COP26, the group participated in a side event, highlighting the roll of collaborative sustainability initiatives in meeting the challenges posed by climate change. It also was an opportunity for the group to meet with Irish Government officials to share learnings from Dingle Peninsula 2030, and inform the Taoiseach of local bottom-up action in light of the global multi-lateral deliberations.

Our total journey by **Electric Vehicle and Ferry** was 1560km with 75 % of charging in Ireland and 25% in Scotland. This equates to a total of **40 kg per person** including the ferry journey (120kg for our three-person team). **Flying to Glasgow and home** would have equated to **160kg per person**, 480kg for the team. The EV journey resulted in approximately **75% less emissions** than flying. With relation to public transport alternatives, using the **ferry, buses and trains** would have resulted in approximately **80kg per person**, totalling 240kg for the whole team. This is double the emission generated from the EV journey. However, if travelling alone, public transport would be a more favourable approach with relation to limiting Co2 Emissions.



Here we outline the different groups met along the way. Alongside this, and prior to COP26, an online event was organised to build networks internationally with sustainability initiatives. These too have been included:



**Dingle Peninsula 2030:** Dingle Peninsula 2030 is an initiative, led by Dingle Peninsula Hub, to transition the peninsula to a low-carbon society for a more environmentally and economically sustainable future. The initiative encompasses projects across energy, transport, agriculture, marine and tourism.



**Green Offaly:** Green Offaly is a not for profit countywide Green Regeneration enterprise operating as a Development Trust. It began life as an Offaly Public Participation Network Initiative; devised as a solution to the Government's Project 2040 seminar, 'Empowering Communities in the Fight against Climate Change'.



**Belfast Climate Commission:** The Belfast Climate Commission was established in 2020 to support the city to make positive choices on issues relating to energy, carbon, weather and climate. Members of the Commission are drawn from key organisations and groups across the city from the public, private and civic sectors.



**Climate Action Strathaven:** Set up in 2019 as a community led charity, Climate Action Strathaven seeks to raise awareness about the reality of the impacts of climate breakdown and work towards a more sustainable future for the people of Strathaven and surrounding areas. They have created a number of sustainable travel initiatives in the area and are developing an Energy Retrofit Project for Strathaven.



**Bothwell Futures:** Through implementing innovative community engagement strategies, Bothwell Futures, have facilitated the development of a 20 year strategic community action plan. Short, medium and long term goals have been set with relation to sustainability across the topics of Carbon Neutrality, Green Culture, Green Infrastructure and Green Space. However what is crucial in their approach is that these topics are integrated a core to and connected in all other projects and activities.



**Cascais Ambiente:** The municipal council in Cascais, Portugal, have developed an action plan for Climate Change Adaptation, using stakeholder workshops to build inclusive sectoral adaptation measures. They have facilitated impact with relation to awareness and education, water resources, civil protection and health, ecological infrastructure and resilient urban green spaces, and spatial planning.



**National University of Columbia, Manizales:** Collaborative climate action initiatives have been established with relation to greening the city of Manizales for Climate Action and Greening the University. Funding has been developed for research grants across the 17 SDG's and projects have been implemented on energy efficiency, renewable energy production, sustainable infrastructure, waste management.