

CORRESPONDENCE

March 2025 Council Meeting

- Correspondence received on 11th February, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Sligo County Council, outlining resolutions adopted by the Council as follows:
 - (i) calling on the Government not to implement the proposed VAT increase on electricity costs.
 - (ii) calling on the Government to abolish any plans to introduce further Carbon Taxes.
 - (iii) calling for the re-instatement of the Tenant-in-Situ Scheme.
 - (iv) calling for the implementation of an Eviction Ban in cases where tenants are abiding by the letting contract.
 - (v) calling for a fixed penalty fine of €10,000 for retailers or persons selling or providing children under 18 with e-liquids, vape kits or nicotine-containing products.
- Letter received on 13th February, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, South Dublin County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council supporting calls for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Email received on 14th February, 2025, from Chief Superintendent Derek Smart, Henry Street Garda Station, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council “to write to the Chief Superintendent of Limerick Garda Síochána, considering the absence of an ISPCA Inspector in Limerick, to urge the creation of a dedicated Garda Animal Welfare Unit in Limerick to combat the rising incidents of animal cruelty and to further address seizure processes related to the impending ban on XL Bully dogs.”
- Letter received on 14th February, 2025, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council “requesting an extension until June for the State-sponsored Ukrainian accommodation in Limerick and for those with pets to be accommodated in temporary accommodation as required.”
- Letter received on 14th February, 2025, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council “(a) calling on Uisce Éireann to install generators at every pumping station in the country; (b) calling on the ESB to cut back/cut down on trees and/or branches in danger of damaging infrastructure and (c) calling on the Government to set up a special emergency phone no. to be activated prior to and manned during all Orange and Red weather alerts.”

- Correspondence received on 18th February, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Roscommon County Council, outlining resolutions adopted by the Council as follows:
 - (i) calling for an incentive for landowners to move trees off the roadside.
 - (ii) calling for all emergency frontline services to be allowed to use any network available during major emergency events.
 - (iii) calling for the introduction of extra time for students with learning difficulties sitting second level examinations.
 - (iv) Calling on ESB Networks and the National Emergency Coordination Group to ensure compliance with wayleaves and exclusion zones near overhead powerlines following storm damage and power outages during recent severe storms.
- Email received on 26th February, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council “seeking a change in the Regulations on the newest application forms for Housing Adaptation Grants for older people and disabled people, most notably the unavailability of a grant to replace a fossil-fuel burner if the current burner is unrepairable.”
- Letter received on 28th February, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Donegal County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to dog owners not controlling their dogs properly.
- Correspondence received on 4th March, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Sligo County Council, outlining resolutions adopted by the Council as follows:
 - (i) calling for places in primary and secondary schools for children with additional needs;
 - (ii) calling for the use of counselling and therapy notes in all cases of gender-based violence to be prohibited.
- Email received on 6th March, 2025, from John Noone, LRSD/ERSD Anayst, Uisce Éireann, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council, given recent weather events, “calling on Uisce Éireann to install generators at every pumping station in the country.”
- Email received on 7th March, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council “calling on the Minister, following the recent storms, to (a) immediately release funds to replenish Local Authority Financial resources used to manage the emergency and (b) provide additional adequate funds for Local Authorities impacted to arrange a local scheme to compensate homeowners and businesses for property damage, lost stock or foods or other reasonable uninsured damages caused by snowfall or electricity cuts.”

- Correspondence received on 10th March, 2025, from Noel Gavigan, Technical Executive, Irish BioEnergy Association, seeking consideration for greater use of wood fuels for domestic heating.
- Letter received on 11th March, 2025, from the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Clare County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling for the provision of funding for all valid applications made by Early Years Educators across the country through the Building Blocks Capital Investment Programme 2025.
- Email received on 11th March, 2025, from IBEC Mid-West and Kerry in reply to resolution adopted by the Council “calling on employers throughout the region to ensure that all staff in their employ have recourse to first-class menstrual and menopausal care with a focus on best practice in order to set the highest standards and ensure Limerick leads the way at national level with regard to these issues.”



COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH
ÁRAS CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

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Our Ref: 02/2025-26

11th February, 2025

To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on 10th February, 2025, the Elected Members agreed the following resolution:

"That this local authority calls on the government to desist from increasing the V.A.T. of 9% to 13.5% on electricity costs that is planned to come into effect from May 2025. A copy of this motion to be forwarded to all local authorities within the state."

Sinéad Branley
Sinéad Branley
Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services Section
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Our Ref: 02/2025-27

11th February, 2025

To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on 10th February, 2025, the Elected Members agreed the following resolution:

"That this local authority calls on the government to abolish any plans of introducing further Carbon Taxes for the foreseeable future. A copy of this motion to be forwarded to all local authorities within the state."

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Meetings Administrator

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Our Ref: 02/2025-28

11th February, 2025

To/ Each Local Authority

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on 10th February, 2025, the Elected Members agreed the following resolution:

"That this local authority calls on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to reinstate the Tenant in Situ scheme and increase the financial threshold limit in line with the current housing market prices in County Sligo. A copy of this motion to be forwarded to all local authorities within the state."

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Our Ref: 02/2025-46

11th February, 2025

To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on 10th February, 2025, the Elected Members agreed the following resolution:

"It is evident now that this government is incapable of delivering its own yearly housing targets, and the number of families living in emergency accommodation is increasing by at least 16% per year with an estimated 4,000 children homeless in Ireland. I am once again calling on the Government to implement an eviction ban, only in cases where the Tenant are abiding with the letting contract, this would protect both Tenant and the landlord. A copy of this motion to be sent to all Councils within the state."

Sinéad Branley
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Our Ref: 02/2025-47

11th February, 2025

To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on 10th February, 2025, the Elected Members agreed the following resolution:

"This local authority calls on the Government to initiate a fixed penalty fine of €10,000 on any retailer or person who sells or provides children under the age of 18 with e-liquids, vape kits, or nicotine-containing products. To also ask that the H.S.E. create an awareness campaign to highlight the dangers of vaping.

A copy of this motion to be sent to all Councils within the state."

Sinéad Branley
Sinéad Branley
Meetings Administrator

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13 February 2025

Ref: M3/0225

Dear Meetings Administrator,

Re: Motion passed at meeting of South Dublin County Council held on the 10th February 2025

The following Motion was agreed at the Council meeting of South Dublin County Council held on the 10th February 2025:

“South Dublin County Council formally backs the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and urges the Irish Government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. If passed, a letter should be sent to all local Councils and the Minister for the Environment.”

I should be grateful for your comments at your earliest convenience. Please quote our reference **M3/0225** on all correspondence.

Yours sincerely,



PP Miriam Reilly
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Department

From: Plenary Meeting

From: Smart, Derek G
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Farrell, Ciara
Cc: Henry DV. Street
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FW: response to resolution adopted in respect of dedicated Garda Animal Welfare Unit

Ciara Farrell
Meetings Administrator

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 7th February 2025 and note the resolution that was adopted at the January meeting of Limerick City and County Council.

I am to confirm that the Department for Agriculture, Food and the Marine have primary responsibility for the welfare of all animals. I reference Minister McConalogue's Dáil response to Deputy Willie O Dea on 20th September 2023, (Question 787) in which he stated '*Since the introduction of the Act over 1000 department officials have been designated as authorised officers. A large number of these authorised officers are based in my Departments network of Regional Veterinary Offices throughout the country, including the Regional Veterinary Office in Limerick.*'

I would also draw your attention to Sec 37 of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 and in particular section 37(2) which states;

(2) The manager of a local authority for the purposes of enforcing this Act in the functional area of the with subsection (6)(b), may, appoint in writing, such officers of the authority as he or she considers appropriate for the exercise of all or any of the functions conferred on an authorised officer under this Act in the functional area in accordance with subsection (6)(b), specified in the appointment.

While members of An Garda Síochána are authorised under the act, we are not the primary agency charged with this function and implementation. Due to the limited resources at my disposal I cannot and will not be creating a dedicated Garda Animal Welfare Unit. I can however assure Council members that where An Garda Síochána become aware of cruelty and neglect cases in the course of their duties, these matters are pursued vigorously through the courts. Our commitment to this area is further underlined by our collaborative working partnership with the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) focusing on a number of recent complaints received in respect to animal welfare matters.

Forwarded for your information.

Derek Smart
Chief Superintendent



11 February 2025

Ms Ciara Farrell
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Merchants Quay
Limerick

Reference Number: DOT-TM25-01244-2025

Dear Ms Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., dated 7th February 2025.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Garry

Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie



// February 2025

Ms Ciara Farrell
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Merchants Quay
Limerick

Reference Number: DOT-TM25-01234-2025

Dear Ms Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., dated 7th February 2025.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Garry

Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Date: 17th February 2025

Re: Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council

Dear Meetings Administrator

At a recent Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council, the following motion was agreed by the Members:

To write to the Department of Agriculture, Department of Transport, and Department of Environment, for an incentive to be put in place for landowners to move trees off the roadside.

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all Local Authorities.

Yours sincerely

Karen Hanley
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Roscommon County Council
Email: meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Date: 17th February 2025

Re: Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council

Dear Meetings Administrator

At a recent Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council, the following motion was agreed by the Members:

To write to the Minister for Communications that all emergency frontline services have access to the GOV NE system to use any network available in the major emergency events to ensure communication channels remain open. It was also agreed to circulate this to all Local Authorities.

Yours sincerely

Karen Hanley
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Roscommon County Council
Email: meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Date: 17th February 2025

Re: Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council

Dear Meetings Administrator

At a recent Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council, the following motion was agreed:

To write to the next Minister for Education requesting the introduction of extra time for students with Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and other learning difficulties sitting second level examinations. The lack of extra time is a severe disadvantage to such students at this crucial time in their lives. It was also agreed to circulate this to all Local Authorities.

Yours sincerely

Karen Hanley
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Roscommon County Council
Email: meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Date: 5th February 2025

Re: Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council

Dear Meetings Administrator

At a recent Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council, the following motion was agreed by the Members:

In light of over 40 trees falling during Storm Darragh, damaging power lines and leaving homes and businesses without power for days, I propose this Council writes to Nicholas Tarrant, MD of ESB Networks, and Keith Leonard, Head of the National Emergency Coordination Group. They should ensure compliance with wayleaves and exclusion zones near overhead powerlines, requiring forestry owners to meet clearance standards. ESB Networks should take pre-emptive measures ahead of storms to prevent similar outages. Additionally, compliance with the DAFM Standards for Felling & Restoration near public roads must be enforced to prevent road safety hazards during extreme weather.

Subsequent to the submission of this motion the events of Storm Éowyn have further highlighted the need for action on this matter.

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all Local Authorities.

Yours sincerely

Karen Hanley
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Roscommon County Council
Email: meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie

From: Plenary Meeting

From: Minister Browne's Office
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 11:59 AM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-00436-2025

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

26th February 2025

RE: HPLG-MBO-00436-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I have been asked by Mr. James Browne T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to thank you for your letter dated 5 February 2025, in connection with the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People scheme, in respect of private houses. The suite of grants, which include the Housing Adaptation Grant for Disabled People, the Mobility Aids Grant and the Housing Aid for Older People Grant, are funded by the Department with a contribution from the local authority.

The Housing Aid for Older People Grant scheme provides grants of up to €10,700 to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out. Qualifying works include structural repairs or improvements, upgrading unsafe electrical wiring, drylining, repair or replacement of windows and doors and the repair or provision of central heating (where no central heating exists or the existing system is broken or beyond repair).

Households which are reliant on a fossil fuelled back boiler system can avail of the Housing Aid for Older People Grant if an Occupational Therapist states that the applicant is unable to manage the existing system. In such cases the local authority can provide grant funding for a more suitable central heating solution which would not require a high level of physical input from the applicant. For applications approved on or after 1 January 2025, grant funding cannot be provided for the purchase of a new standalone fossil fuel boiler (Article 17(15) of Directive (EU) 2024/1275 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024).

Any applications for grant funding in respect of the purchase of a new fossil fuel boiler (oil or gas), which were received and approved by a local authority prior to 1 January 2025 can still be paid to applicants after 1 January 2025. The grant scheme continues to be available for applications approved after 1 January 2025 in respect of costs relating to the repair of an existing fossil fuel boiler by a qualified contractor (oil or gas) or the purchase and installation of a second hand fossil fuel boiler by a qualified contractor (oil or gas).

Notwithstanding the above, grants may continue to be paid after 1 January 2025 in respect of the repair or replacement of all other parts of a central heating system such as new radiators, oil tanks or pipework, regardless of connection to an existing fossil fuel boiler (oil or gas). Grants may also continue to be paid in respect of electric or biomass heating solutions e.g. wall mounted electric heaters or wood pellet stoves etc.,

where either are deemed to be a suitable option in line with applicantâ€™s circumstances. The detailed administration of the schemes is the responsibility of the local authorities, therefore the qualifying works is a matter for consideration and decision on a case-by-case basis by the local authority within the scope of the grant scheme.

Grant funding for insulation works or the installation of heat pumps or air to water heating solutions are more appropriate to the schemes available from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). An applicant seeking funding specifically for a heat pump would normally be referred by local authorities to the SEAI to check if funding is available. However, if the SEAI assesses the application and determines that a heat pump is not suitable given the condition of the house, then it is unlikely to be considered under the Housing Aid for Older People Grant scheme.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan McCarthy

Private Secretary



27th February 2025

Re: Control of Dogs in Public Spaces

Dear Meetings Administrator,

I write to inform you that the members of Donegal County Council at their recent meeting resolved to adopt the following resolution:

"That this Council takes action on dog owners who are not controlling their dogs properly in our communities, i.e. chasing sheep etc or are a danger to the public, children etc, and that a rule is brought in that all dogs must be on a lead while in public spaces such as towns, beaches, walks, trails etc."

It was further agreed to circulate same to all other local authorities for their consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Patsy Lafferty
Meetings Administrator



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Our Ref: 03/2025-46

4th March, 2025

To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on 3rd March, 2025, the Members agreed the following resolution:

"That this local authority calls on the Minister for Education and Youth, Helen McEntee, and the Irish Government to bring in legislation to ensure that every child with additional needs has a place in their local Primary and secondary school. A copy of this motion to be sent to all local authorities within the state."

Sinéad Branley
Meetings Administrator

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Our Ref: 03/2025-30

4th March, 2025

To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on 3rd March, 2025, the Members agreed the following resolution:

"That Sligo County Council call on the Minister for Justice to immediately prohibit the use of counselling and therapy notes in all cases of gender-based violence. Survivors must be able to seek support without fear that their private records will be used against them. Protecting their confidentiality is essential for ensuring justice and safety."

It was further agreed by the Elected Members that a copy of the resolution would be circulated to all local authorities.

Sinéad Branley
Sinéad Branley
Meetings Administrator

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Sligo.

From: councilmeetings
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 2:28 PM
Cc: councilmeetings
Subject: [EXTERNAL]RE: Resolution adopted at January Meeting of Limerick City and County Council SP 31778

Caution: This is an external email and may have a suspicious subject or attached content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact your IT Department

I am writing to you today regarding your correspondence on behalf of the Members of Limerick Council, regarding provision of generators.

Your Uisce Éireann reference number for same was 31778.

I am pleased to advise that my colleagues in our Communications Team at Uisce Éireann have reviewed your query and the following response has become available:

Uisce Éireann met with Minister Browne and provided a comprehensive update on the extensive efforts of our staff to manage the impact of Storm Éowyn on communities throughout Ireland. Uisce Éireann did so both as part of the National Emergency Co-ordination Group where we agreed and aligned our response with partners at national level, and through our own incident management and response processes and structures.

Working in this manner, Uisce Éireann focussed on minimising customer impact and protecting public health to the greatest extent possible. Through pre-emptive deployment of backup generators, the supply to c.146,000 premises (395,000 customers) was maintained with onsite generation. While the storm did cause disruption to water supplies for some homes and communities, Uisce Éireann was able to restore services for the majority of homes and businesses within a short period of time.

Uisce Éireann informed the Minister that post incident reviews are now underway to examine a range of areas where there can be greater preparedness in the future. As part of this review, Uisce Éireann has committed to procuring additional generators, will accelerate its programme to ensure that at-risk plants and other assets (e.g. pumping stations) are generator-ready and will also examine other options for alternative power solutions.

We will also continue to work with all the relevant Government and state agencies to ensure the appropriate levels of readiness for extreme weather events. Uisce Éireann appreciates the support of Minister Browne regarding our response to Storm Éowyn and looks forward to working with him and his team as we prepare for future weather-related events

We would like to thank you for your correspondence, I trust that this update provides clarity to both you and your (District) members. Should you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact us on the details below. Thank you for using Uisce Éireann's dedicated Council Meetings mailbox.

Regards,

John

John Noone
LRSD / ERSD Analyst

Uisce Éireann
Teach Colvill, 24–26 Sráid Thalbóid, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 NP86, Éire
Uisce Éireann
Colvill House, 24–26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, D01 NP86, Ireland

From: Minister Browne's Office
Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 3:58 PM
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-00440-2025

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

7th March 2025

RE: HPLG-MBO-00440-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell

Thank you for your recent correspondence on behalf of Limerick City and County Council.

Local authorities are designated as the lead agencies for coordinating a response to flooding and severe weather emergencies.

All local authorities have an established Severe Weather Assessment Team in place, monitoring Met Éireann weather warnings, High Tide Advisories and European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) advisory warnings. Local authorities also have Severe Weather/ Flood Plans in place to support the response to weather emergencies.

My Department undertakes the Lead Government Department role, as set out in the Strategic Emergency Management (SEM) Framework (2017), in relation to the coordination of national level responses to severe weather and flooding emergencies, where warranted. The Department's National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management undertakes this role and works closely with local authority Severe Weather Assessment Teams and Met Éireann.

Since 2009, my Department has made financial support of over €100 million available to assist local authorities in meeting the unbudgeted costs of clean-up and necessary immediate works, including for exceptional overtime payments, the hire of plant and heavy machinery, the purchase of materials required for the clean-up and the hire of contractors associated with significant severe weather emergency events.

This is in recognition of the exceptional nature of the activities carried out by local authorities in responding to these types of emergencies and the fact that the costs of these un-programmed activities could not be foreseen in annual expenditure planning. This practice is considered a vital enabler of the local authority action, providing the assurance that availability of resources is not a limiting factor in providing a very effective local response.

In the context of Storm Éowyn and the exceptional nature of the response activities carried out by local authorities, clearly the costs of these activities were not budgeted for within existing resources. As always, my Department, in consultation with the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, will

work with local authorities to support them over the coming months, as they co-ordinate recovery and restoration works.

It should be noted that funding of repair of public infrastructure is undertaken by the relevant Department in line with its sectoral responsibility. Capital costs associated with infrastructural damage, for example damage to the roads network and coastal protection infrastructure (where relevant), are funded under relevant sectoral arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan McCarthy

Private Secretary

Mayor John Moran
Limerick City & County Council
Merchants Quay,
Limerick,
V94 EH90

By email: For noting as correspondence at the next council meeting.

Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA) www.irbea.org

From: noelgavigan@irbea.org
To: Mayor John Moran
BCC: Elected representatives of Limerick City & County Council
4th March 2025

RE: Proposal for consideration regarding chimney removals in local authority housing and measures to increase the use of wood fueled appliances in domestic homes

Dear Elected Representative,

The recent weather damage has highlighted the risk of Irish homes becoming over reliant on electricity for all energy needs. Many residents experienced power outages extending beyond a week, leaving them with no way to heat their homes.

There are of course simple and cost-effective ways to address lack of heating during power outages, the traditional method has been with open fires, while the modern option is to use efficient solid fuel stoves. Modern stoves are regulated under the Ecodesign directive to be efficient and clean burning, when coupled with renewable fuel such as firewood can also reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Stoves work in any home, regardless of age and level of insulation. To those ends, the Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA) has been working with our members for over two decades to provide quality woodfuels, while also advocating for the use of modern wood burning stoves. The combination of quality woodfuel and modern woodfuel stoves has been conclusively shown to provide cost-effective, clean combustion and to decarbonise domestic heating demand.

IrBEA wishes to highlight two related matters for your attention and consideration.

1. At the moment, when upgrading housing stock, many local authorities are permanently removing chimneys and completely electrifying heating systems. IrBEA notes the recent motion passed by representatives of Kerry County Council which calls for the council to cease removing chimneys from their housing stock. IrBEA encourages you to consider a similar motion in your county.

IrBEA and its members suggest that all Local Authorities should consider updating housing stock by replacing all open fires with Ecodesign wood burning stoves and boilers. These work at far higher efficiencies than open fires and will reduce fuel demand by as much as two thirds and eliminate carbon emissions. These stoves are efficient, simple to operate, and provide a higher level of heat for a given quantity of wood fuel.

2. Policy from the last government has been to encourage widespread deployment of electrified heating and actively discourage heating by solid fuels, this has led to a general perception that planning consent is difficult to achieve where a home builder wishes to incorporate a chimney or flue. IrBEA requests that all Local Authorities clarify that chimneys and flues are acceptable in new houses as long as they comply with building regulations. This action will encourage the adoption of a wider range of resilient and renewable heating systems for homeowners including woodfuel appliances.

All Ecodesign stoves sold in Ireland since 2022 must comply with the current Ecodesign (2015/1189) Regulation. This regulation sets requirements for clean combustion to greatly reduce emissions. Ecodesign stoves are 75% efficient (compared to open fires at approximately 25%) and reduce particulate emissions (smoke) by up to 90%, and relatively cheap to install and operate. Ecodesign wood stoves also displace carbon emissions from combustion of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.

All solid fuels sold in Ireland must be compliant with the Solid Fuel Regulations 2022 to prevent the sale of smoky fuels such as bituminous coal and wet firewood. Local Authority enforcement officers are tasked with enforcing the regulations. Using low smoke fuels is critical to protect air quality. Firewood must be sufficiently dry to ensure clean and efficient combustion.

The Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA) is the representative body for the bioenergy industry in Ireland. It has membership spread across biomass, biogas, biofuels, biochar, energy crops and wood fuels. Further details can be found at www.irbea.org. The association administers the Wood Fuel Quality Assurance (WFQA) scheme. The WFQA certifies wood and biomass fuels supplied by over 100 suppliers around the country. Our organisation works with the EPA, Local Authority enforcement officers and fuel suppliers to assist in compliance with the Solid Fuel Regulations. You can find further details about the WFQA on www.wfqa.org and a map of the suppliers in your area can be found on our [online map](#).

IrBEA encourages you to consider the above proposals and are available to present at a future council meeting or provide any further information you may require. Please feel free to contact us should you require any assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Gavigan

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Sean Finan

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COMHAIRLE CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR COUNTY COUNCIL

11th March, 2025.

Our Ref: March25 – 19/JC/AC

Dear Meeting Administrator,

At the March meeting of Clare County Council, the members passed the following resolution and agreed that this request should be circulated to all Local Authorities:

“I call on the Minister for Children and Disability, Norma Foley to provide funding for all of the valid applications made by Early Years Educators across the country through the Building Blocks Capital Investment Program 2025. A pillar service with major waiting lists and need across the country requires sufficient focus and funding now to ensure those who have taken the time and invested money in developing projects that prove a need in their area should be funded as a matter of urgency to see delivery of much needed additional spaces in the next 12/18 months.

If agreed, I ask this motion is shared with other local authorities.”

Yours sincerely,


John Corry,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Rural Development Directorate.

An Rannóg Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
An Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt Tuaithe
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services Department
Rural Development Directorate
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2

From: Ann O'Leary
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 9:46 AM
To: Plenary Meeting
Cc: Keevagh Heverin
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FW: Resolution adopted by Limerick City and County Council

We acknowledge the receipt of your email and it has been passed on to the Regional Director.

Kind regards

Ann O'Leary
Administrator
Ibec Mid West & Kerry
Bank Place
Charlotte Quay
Limerick