

EU Just Transition Fund Ireland

Public Consultation Summary

The EU Just Transition Fund (EU JTF) supports European regions most affected by the transition to climate neutrality. In Ireland this will focus on the wider Midlands region, where there have been direct impacts from the move away from peat production and electricity generation from peat. Ireland has been allocated €84m under this fund, which will be matched funded by the Government of Ireland.

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), in collaboration with the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, developed a draft Territorial Just Transition Plan, which will set out how the fund could be used to invest in the wider Midlands region ([Link to plan](#)).

DECC sought the views of the public and organisations on the draft Territorial Just Transition Plan through a consultation which ran from December to March 2022 ([Link to report](#)).

THE CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTED THAT:

- The EU JTF is urgently needed to support economic transition in the wider Midlands region. The Fund was widely welcomed as a potential enabler to maintain and enhance the quality of life and network of communities within the affected territories.
- There was broad consensus that the four developmental needs outlined in the draft Territorial Just Transition Plan are strong and synergistic:
 - Modernise the Business Environment and Create Employment Opportunities
 - Enhance the Skills Profile
 - Focus on Environmental Sustainability and Industrial Heritage
 - Enhancing potential of region as a place to live and work
- Responses shared as part of the consultation highlighted strong levels of local social cohesion and a desire to respond with imagination and innovation in moving away from a focus on fossil fuels in the wider Midlands region.
- Those who responded saw the retention and attraction of highly mobile skilled workers as a key enabler of the wider Midlands region. The loss of employment locally will have a negative impact on the whole community. Many saw the EU JTF as a way to create and sustain viable communities in the wider Midlands region, through supporting local enterprise.
- There was recognition that while climate change mitigation and adaptation and Ireland's Climate Action Plan requires a different model for development in the wider Midlands region, the region's previous role providing indigenous energy was a source of pride, and strength in their communities. Participants saw great potential to connect or recreate this pride and strength.
- A strong theme that emerged was how monitoring of implementation is critical for overall success of the Fund, with a collaborative approach needed, involving the diverse range of stakeholders.

“The closure of the two power stations can be viewed as positive in the sense that it has given us an opportunity to reimagine our county identity. ...we need to ensure that the opportunity is not squandered, and solutions are not short term quick fixes.”

Community Organisation Offaly

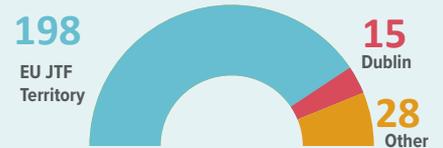
WHO GOT INVOLVED IN THE CONSULTATION

WE ENGAGED WITH OVER

240

Individuals & Organisations

LOCATION & NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS



CONSULTATION METHODS



OF THE 82 SURVEY RESPONDENTS:

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENT TYPE



OCCUPATION & NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

