

# Overcoming Government Barriers to Climate Action in the West

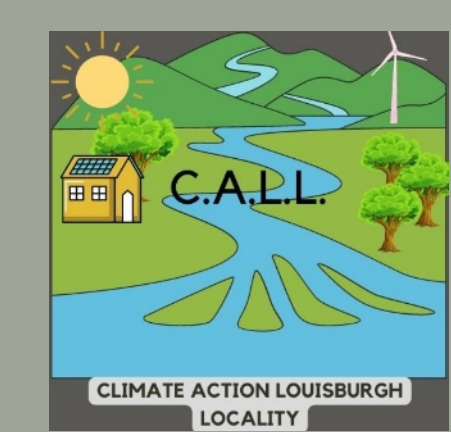
**Climate Action Louisburgh Locality (CALL)**

**James Ryan**

**Ciara Cullen**

**Richard Mannion**

**Mary Robinson Climate Conference  
Ballina, June 2024**

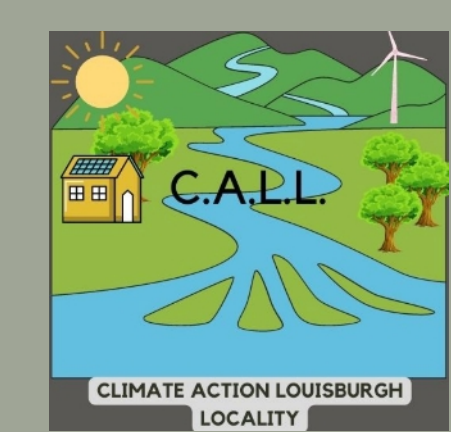


# Overcoming Government Barriers to Climate Action in the West

## Climate Action Louisburgh Locality

### Workshop facilitator, James Ryan

- CALL Workshop, 2023, Turbo-charging Community Action on the Biodiversity and Climate Crisis
- Introducing **Climate Action Louisburgh Locality, CALL**
- Introducing the workshop Topic
- Format of the workshop
- Introduce 2 short talks



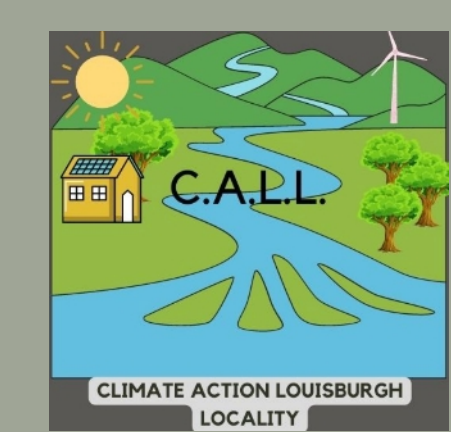
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## Climate Action Louisburgh Locality

### Where is CALL? (Climate Action Louisburgh Locality)

- South-west Mayo bounded by Killary Harbour, Atlantic coast and Clew Bay
- Includes Clare Island and Inishturk Island.
- 1,700 households



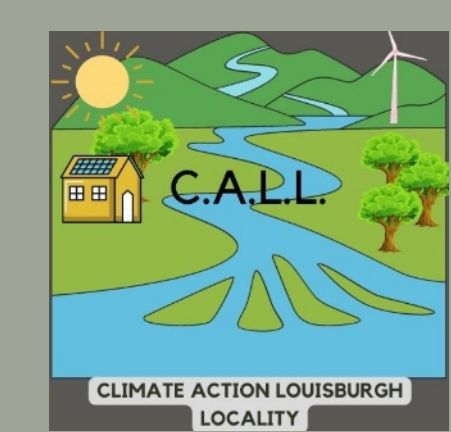


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## CALL Objectives

- Reduce emissions
- Enhance biodiversity
- Increase community resilience
- Develop community self sufficiency



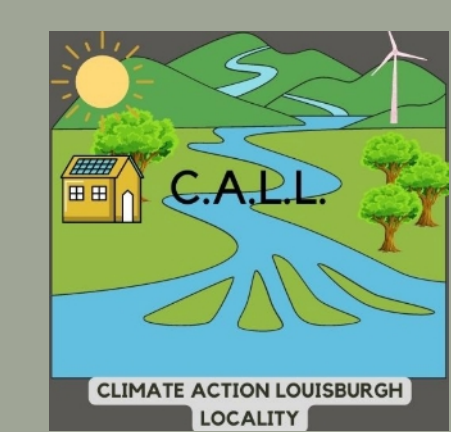
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## Climate Action Louisburgh Locality

Green Community Group of the Year, 2023

Mayo Co Council Cathaoirleach Awards





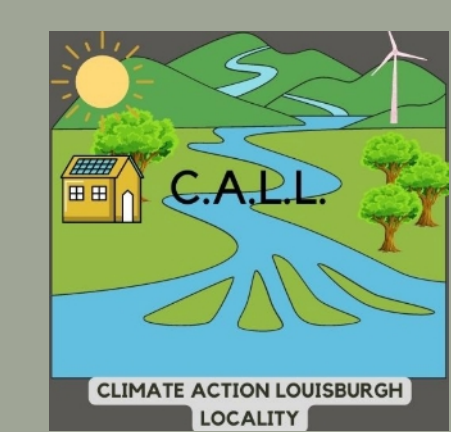
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### Workshop theme

*With one hand the government giveth and with the other it taketh away*

- Licences and Permissions (delays, etc)
- Project Eligibility Criteria
- Funding Eligibility criteria
- Complex grant application requirements - Government and EU (can we adopt the philanthropist approach?)
- Grant application decision delays
- No funding for Core Costs

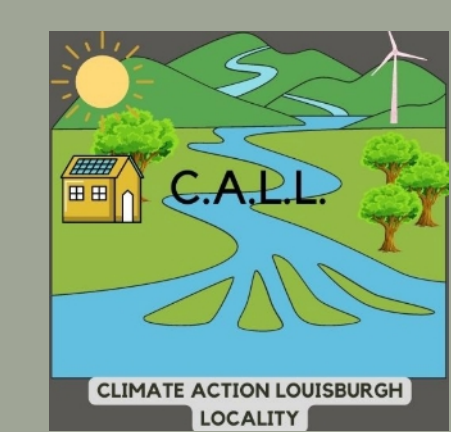


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### Example: Local Authority Climate Action Fund (up to €100k)

- **Ineligible:** core costs, meaning no funding for staff or other admin costs
- **Ineligible:** projects on private property
- **Ineligible:** projects based on school property
- **Ineligible:** Anything other than 3D stuff - not on studies or training (but where!!!?)
- **Ineligible:** Community electric vehicles, apart from bicycles
- **Ineligible:** Any project not applied for by the property owner
- **Ineligible:** Co-funded project



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## Session format

- 2 short talks on microgeneration and afforestation
- Collaborative enquiry via a round table workshop (3-4 tables)
  - i. Woodland planting permission solutions
  - ii. Hybrid micro-generation solutions
  - iii. Other impediments
- Table topic summaries by note-takers

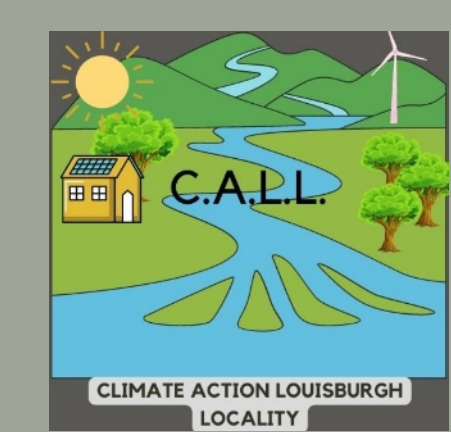




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Climate Action Louisburgh Locality

Richard Mannion, Louisburgh, Mayo



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### Shared Green Deal



Social sciences & Humanities for  
Achieving a Responsible, Equitable  
and Desirable GREEN DEAL

In March 2023, Climate Action Louisburgh in partnership with Mayo County Council was selected as the Western Europe local partner for the Efficient Renovations Social experiment

The other three partners were

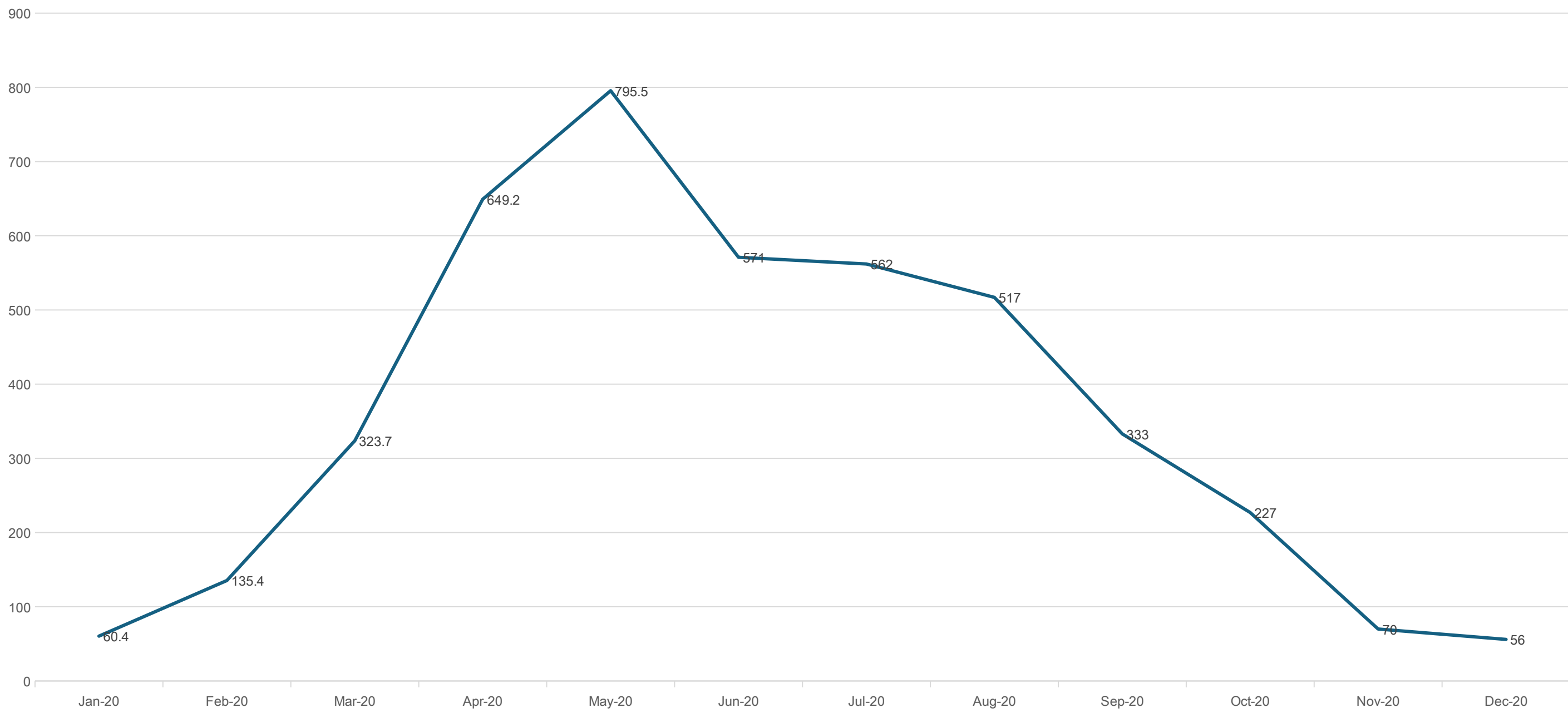
- Vilnius, Lithuania - Northern Europe
- Zaragossa, Spain - Southern Europe
- Nograd, Hungary- Eastern Europe

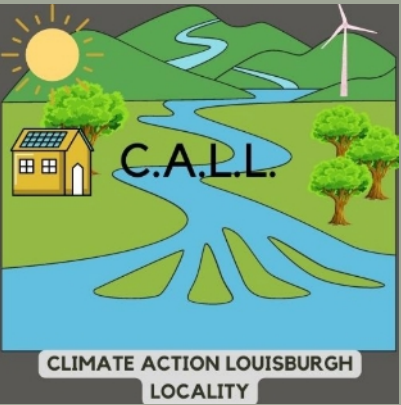


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kWh produced monthly Devlinfarmlife

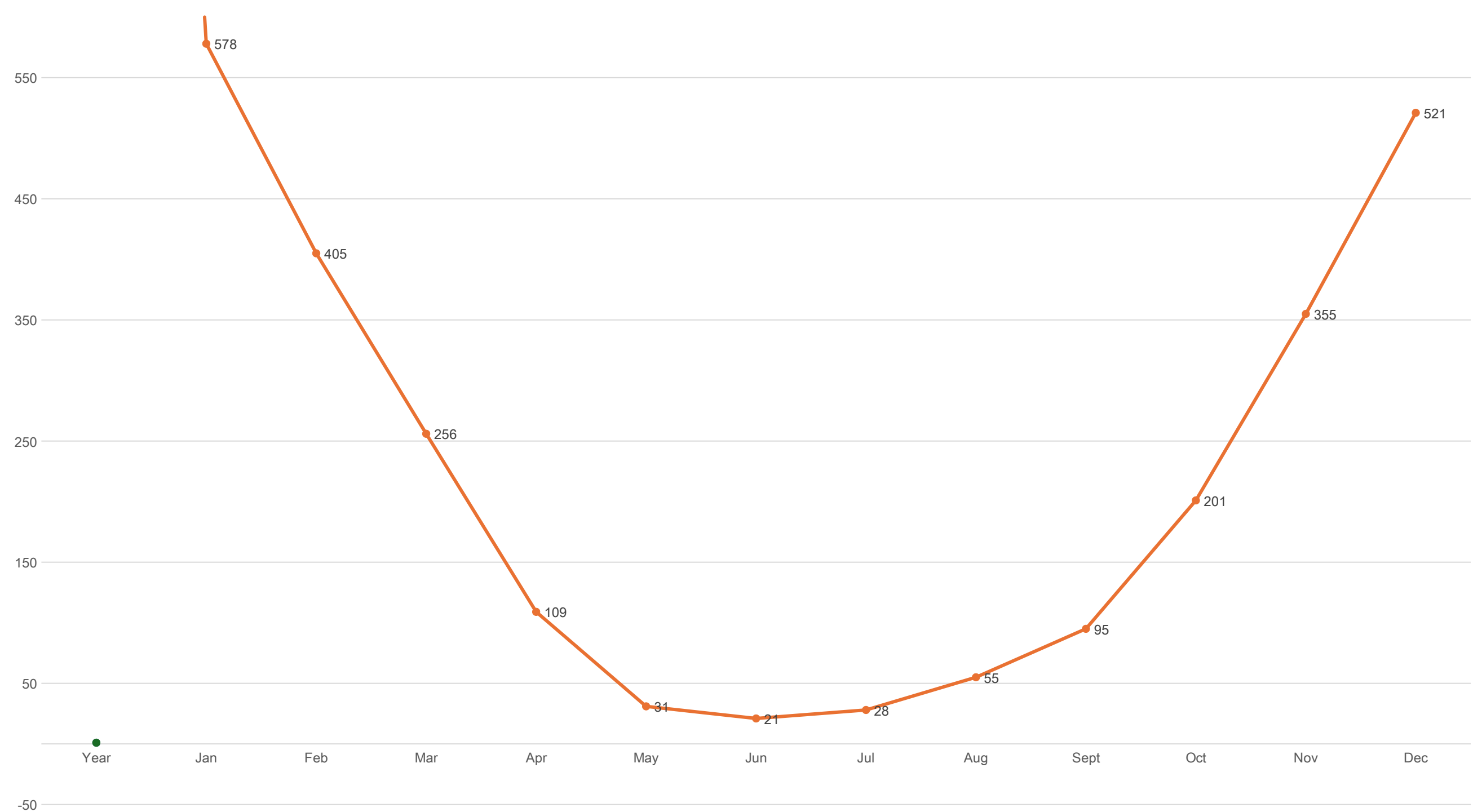


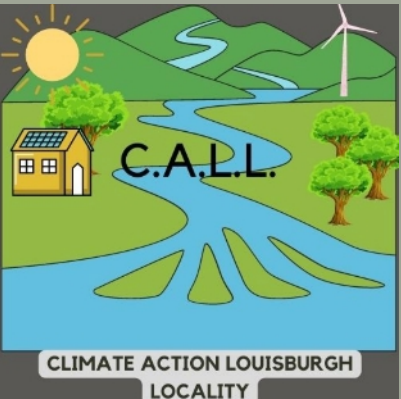


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Monthly Electricity Usage kWh

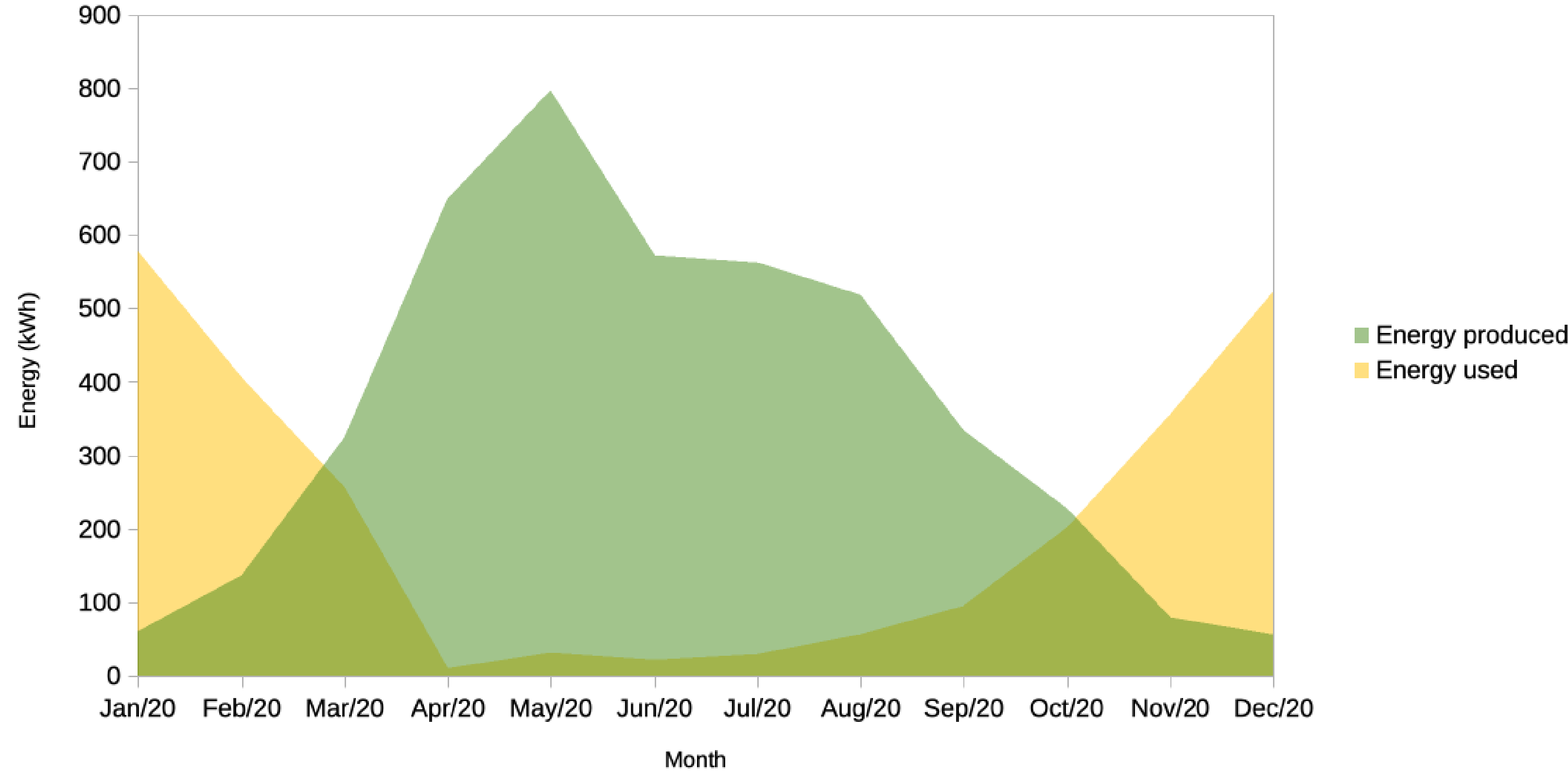


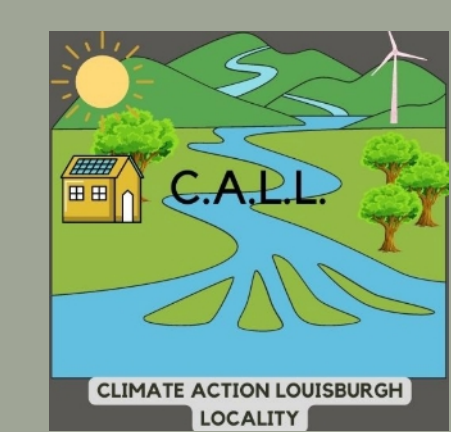


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Monthly Energy at Devlinfarmlife





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## What are the solutions

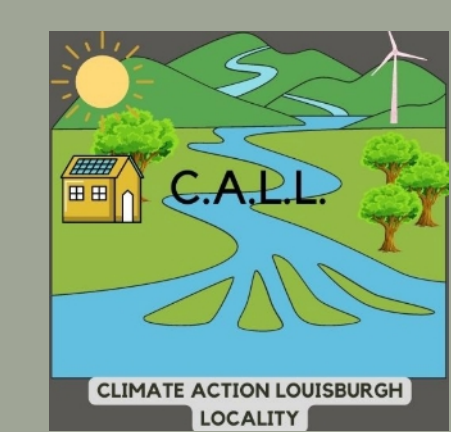
- Standardize EN certification of small turbines in Europe
- Approve the use of mini-grids in Ireland
- Allow community groups to sell electricity locally
- For funding, include the environment and Community resilience as beneficiaries
- Put some money into small wind research or fund community groups for R&D projects
- Fund research on mounting masts for small wind



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Ciara Cullen, Clare Island, Mayo



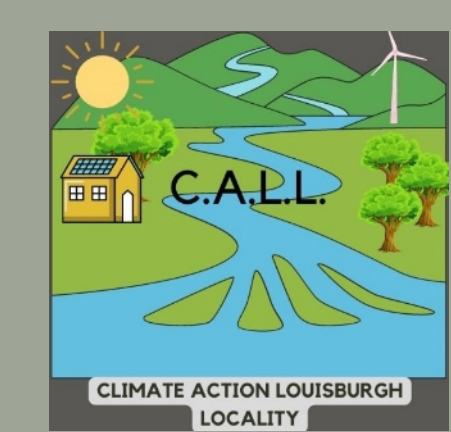
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Increasing Tree Cover in Mayo – there's a will (?)  
but struggling to find a way

We should be planting millions of trees every year for biodiversity and climate change, so why are we nationally consistently falling short of our targets and why are those locally who want to plant not able to?

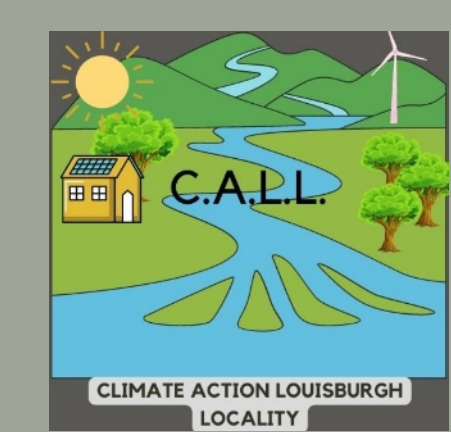




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- Post glacial period (holocene) - 80% of Ireland was covered in forests (compared to just over 50% of Europe as a whole)
- Overall, we have highly favourable conditions for trees
- But – 3rd lowest tree cover 11.6% (Europe as a whole 39%)
- National goal 18% by 2050 – but we're underperforming!



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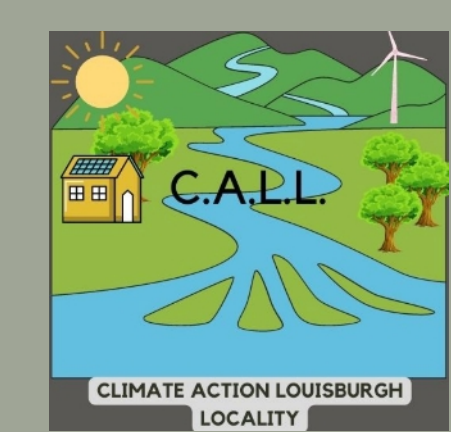
### **Native Tree Area Scheme (NTAS)**

The Native Tree Area Scheme (NTA 1 & 2) supports the creation of small native forests (up to one hectare) on farmed land. An afforestation licence is not required.

### **Native Forests Afforestation Scheme**

Expand Ireland's native woodland resource and associated biodiversity.

- Since October 2023, only 253 NTA's have been approved nationwide, which is much lower than what many would have expected considering the attractive nature of the scheme.
- Native Forests Licences



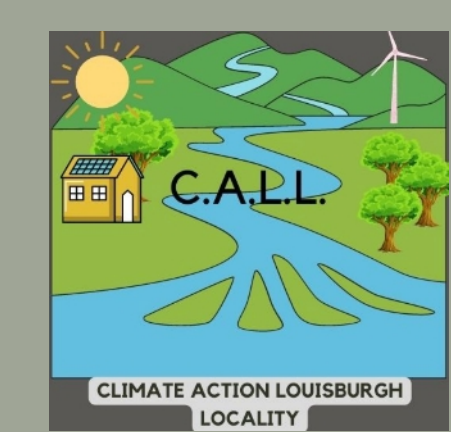
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### A Clare Island Story

- Woodlands of mixed native trees were once common on Clare Island





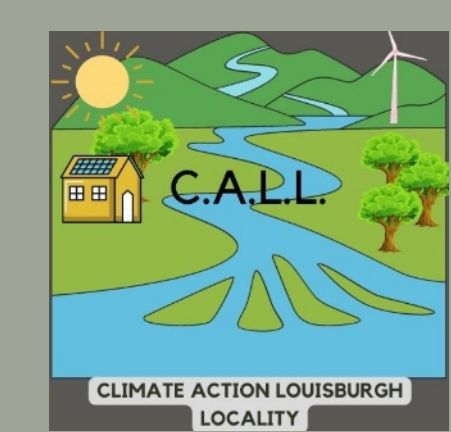
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### A Clare Island Story

- Now they are almost all gone
- A single patch of woodland remains





## A Clare Island Story

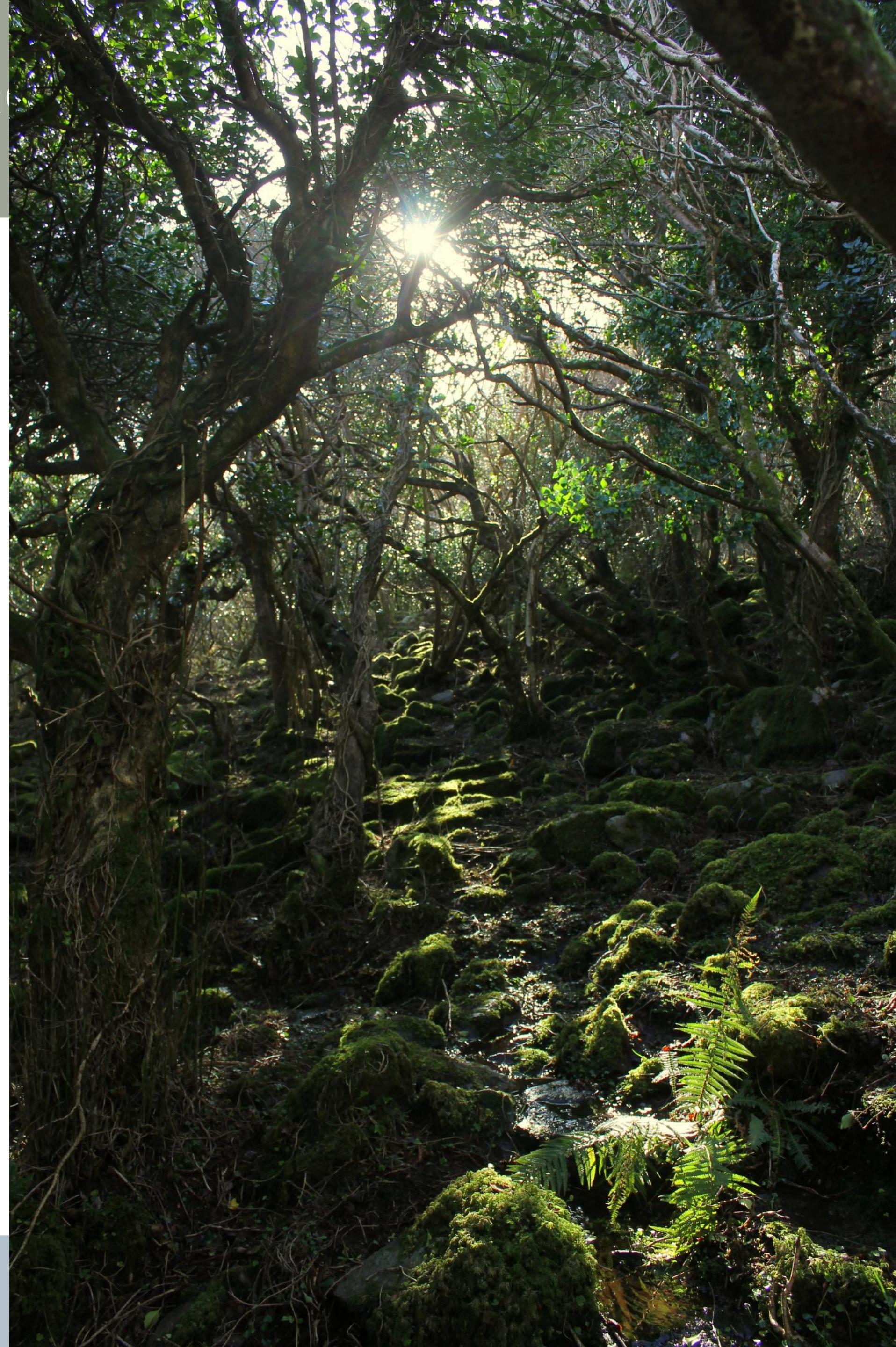
“That little woodland is doing well. Let’s plant some more woodlands around the island”

**Ineligible:** Applications under NTA scheme

**Ineligible:** Applications under Native Forests Scheme

The entire island must remain woodland free!!!???

Questions need to be urgently asked about the impact of designations on woodland planting in the west.





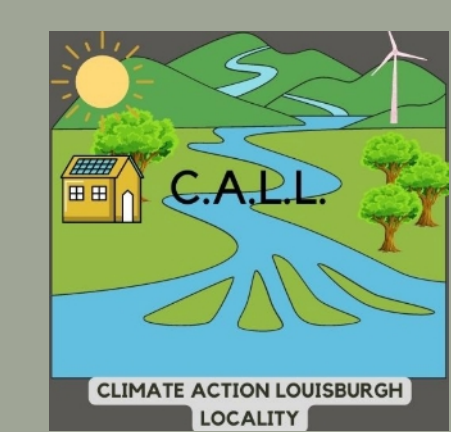
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Thank You!

[lkci.call@gmail.com](mailto:lkci.call@gmail.com)  
<http://callclimateaction.ie>

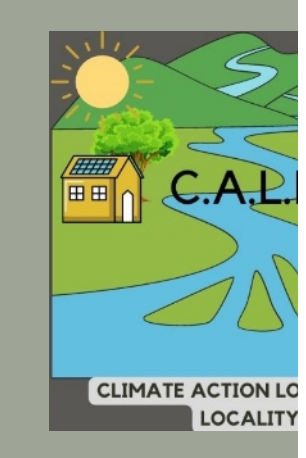


# Overco

# imate Action in the West Climate Action Louisburgh Locality

Table 1. Areas not eligible for inclusion in the scheme.

Measure	Description	Purpose
Natura 2000 Sites	<a href="#">Natura 2000</a> is a European network of protected nature areas where certain species of animal and their natural habitats are protected in order to preserve biodiversity. These areas are defined within the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011).	Conservation of certain habitats and species.
Top 8 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) Catchments	The entire area of each of the Top 8 FPM Catchment is excluded from entry to the Scheme. In each case, this includes the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) where the FPM occurs plus any remaining area of the water catchment not included in that SAC.	Conservation of FPM habitats and species.
National Heritage Areas (NHA) & proposed NHAs	<a href="#">National Heritage Areas</a> are considered important for the habitats present or which has species of plants and animals present whose habitat needs protection.	Conservation of certain habitats and species.
Nature Reserves	A <a href="#">Nature Reserve</a> is an area of importance to wildlife, which is protected under Ministerial Order.	Conservation of certain habitats and species.
National Parks	<a href="#">National Parks</a> are ecosystems not materially altered by human exploitation and occupation; where plant and animal species, geomorphological sites and habitats are of special scientific, educational and recreational interest or which contain a natural landscape of great beauty.	Conservation of certain habitats and species.
Curlew Breeding Buffer	A 1.5 kilometre buffer radius from a nesting Curlew pair where no afforestation is allowed where there is a risk either to Curlew that are already present or where population recovery may be feasible.	To ensure no significant adverse effects of afforestation on ground nesting curlew.
Hen harrier higher likelihood nesting areas	A 1.2 kilometre buffer radius from a nesting Hen harrier pair where no afforestation is allowed where there is a risk either to Hen harrier that are already present or where population recovery may be feasible.	To ensure no significant adverse effects of afforestation on ground nesting hen harriers.
Small White Orchid	A 0.5km buffer radius from a small white orchid where no afforestation is allowed where there is a risk either to orchids that are already present or where population recovery may be feasible.	To ensure no significant adverse effects of afforestation on the small white orchid.
Land other than farm land	Include only those lands which have been used for farming (e.g. dairy farming, livestock production, cultivation of fodder and tillage crops and the growing of horticultural crops). As identified by the <a href="#">National Land Cover Map</a> .	Focus the Scheme on farmland thereby excluding those areas which may already have high biodiversity.
Elevation	Exclude upland areas which are defined as those areas occurring at an elevation of 200 metres or more.	To ensure no significant adverse effects on upland habitats and focus planting on lowland sites.
Peatland	Areas of peat or organic soils are excluded as identified by the <a href="#">Irish Forest Soils Indicative Map</a> and the <a href="#">National Land Cover Map</a> .	To ensure no significant adverse effects of afforestation on deep peats.
Semi-Natural Grasslands	The <a href="#">Irish Semi-Natural Grasslands Survey</a> was a nationwide research study to identify semi-natural grasslands habitats commissioned by the National Parks & Wildlife Service.	To ensure no significant adverse effects of afforestation on Annex 1 Grassland Habitats.
Breeding Farmland Wader Hotspots	The Breeding Farmland Wader hotspot map was prepared by BirdWatch Ireland. These 1 kilometre square hotspots were derived from scientifically validated recent bird observation records. A scoring scheme was designed to highlight those areas of greatest significance.	To ensure no significant adverse effects of afforestation on breeding farmland waders.

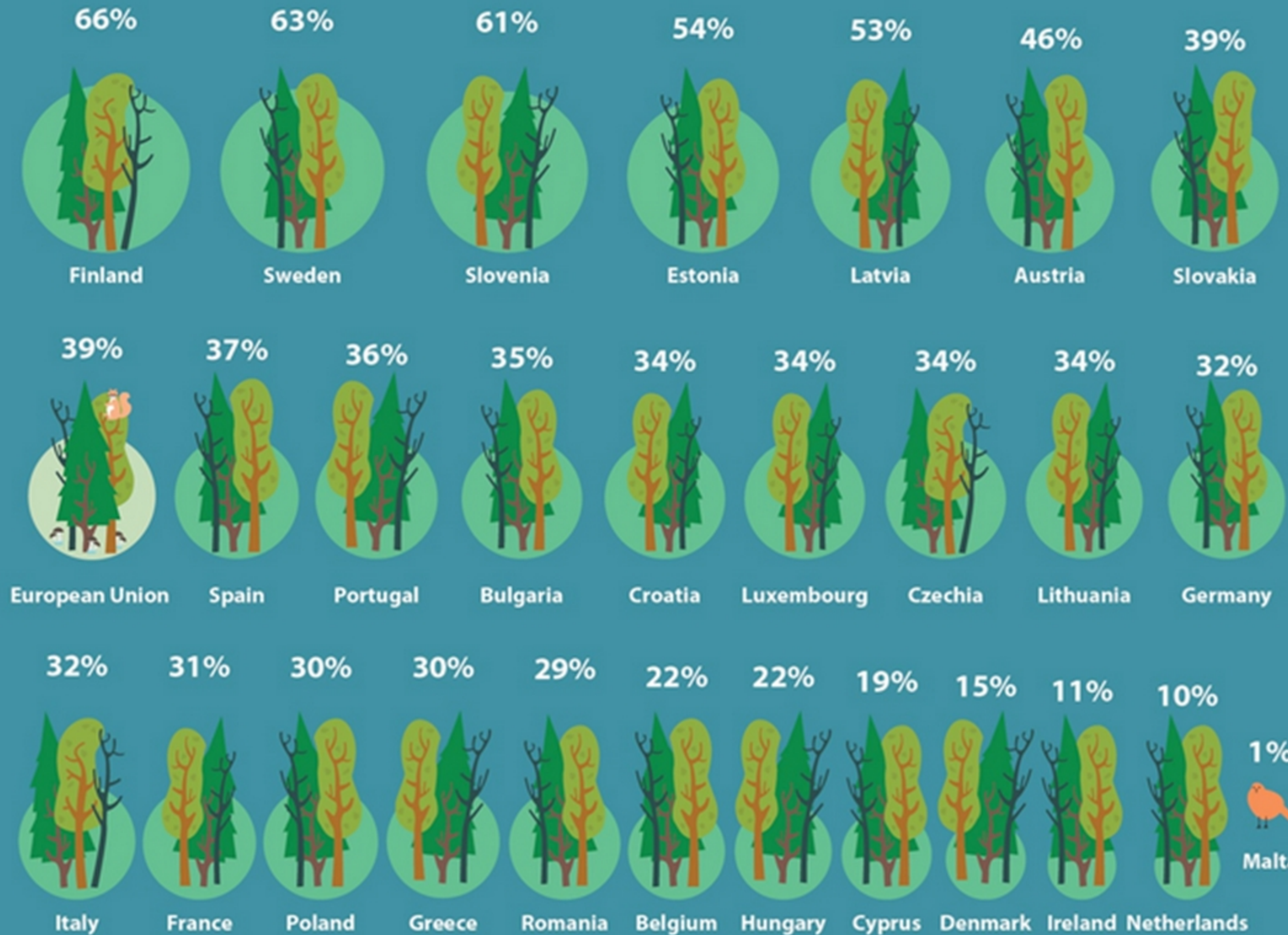


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### Area covered by forests in 2020

(% of total area\*)



Forests data: estimates; source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - Forest Resources Assessment, European Forest Accounts (EFA)

\* 2016 data used for the total area.