

LIFE Programme in Ireland



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 74 projects in Ireland over 44 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €234m, of which the EU contributed €110m.

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 5500 projects across the EU and in third countries, mobilising more over €12 billion and contributing with more than €5 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. The LIFE programme contributes fully to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.

The budget for the period 2021–2027 is set at €5.4 billion.

The following sub-programmes are covered (*):

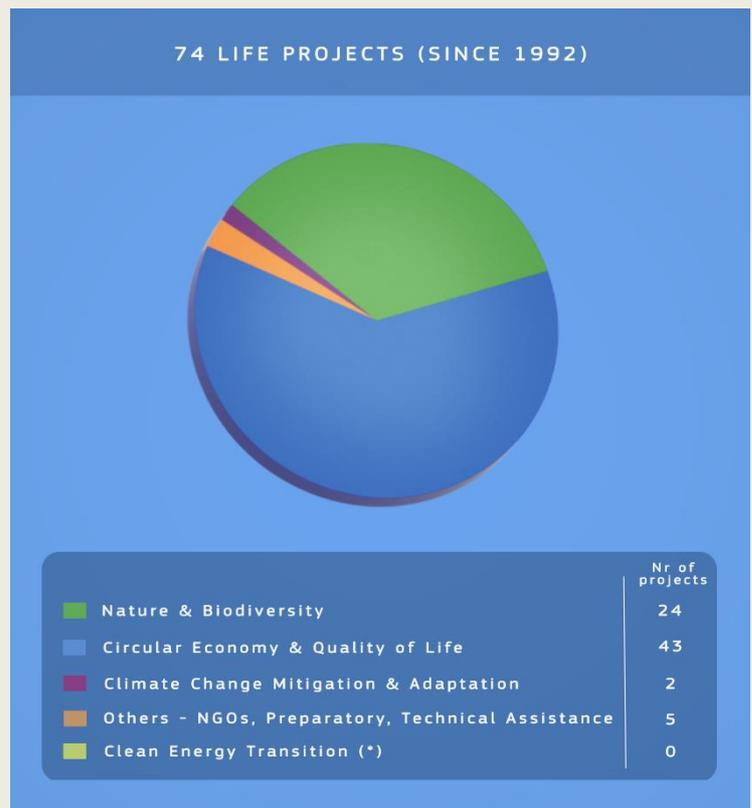
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

For more information:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en

'The future is green. The future is LIFE' leaflet

Past and closed projects are designated in this document with the new LIFE programme 2021-2027 nomenclature



INVESTMENT IN LIFE PROJECTS IN IRELAND (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	234	110
Nature & Biodiversity	95	58
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	104	38
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	33	13
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	2	0.9



LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

The Nature and Biodiversity strand includes support for standard action projects for developing, applying and promoting best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity, as well as “Strategic Nature Projects” (SNAP). These new projects support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in Member States in order to mainstream those objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the prioritised action frameworks adopted pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC.

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 24 projects in Ireland. These represent a total investment of €95 million, of which €58 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed projects mostly concentrated on the conservation, management and restoration of habitats, with a specific emphasis on active blanket bogs, raised bogs, farmland, various types of woodland, and priority terrestrial habitats. As a result of some projects, the conditions for Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey, brook lamprey, hen harrier, merlin, and European otter were improved by connecting or restoring their habitats. One project made a significant contribution to halting the loss of biodiversity in Ireland by developing and demonstrating effective methods for controlling highly-invasive plant species, combined with a programme of stakeholder commitment, leading to policy development and dissemination. Another project developed a new model for the sustainable agricultural management of the priority habitats of the Burren. Project beneficiaries comprised mainly NGOs, IRD Duhallow, parks and national authorities, and a semi-state fisheries organisation.

There are five ongoing projects in Ireland. Projects seek to: demonstrate sustainable management techniques for farming and forestry in freshwater pearl mussel catchments; restore raised bogs in the Irish Midlands; improve the conservation status in Ireland of the corncrake by the enhancement of the SPA network and surrounding farmland; protect and restore Ireland’s network of machair systems; and improve ecosystem resilience and reduce nutrient pollution in Lough Carra.

One Strategic Nature Project is ongoing in Ireland. The LIFE-IP PAF Wild Atlantic Nature project’s objectives are described below.



Protecting and restoring Ireland’s blanket bogs (LIFE-IP PAF Wild Atlantic Nature) LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002

Drainage, peat cutting, fires and overgrazing have left blanket bogs in the Northern and Western Region of Ireland in an unfavourable condition.

LIFE-IP PAF Wild Atlantic Nature will protect and restore blanket bogs in 24 of the country’s [Natura 2000](#) sites. Encroaching trees and shrubs will be removed, drains blocked to raise water levels and fire management measures improved. The project will increase awareness of blanket bogs’ ecological value and importance for climate change mitigation, while developing a sense of community ownership of local peatlands. It will also secure the support of landowners, land users and other local stakeholders for management plans which address the multiple threats facing these sites.

[Project summary](#)



Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Actions supported under the Circular economy and quality of life strand will help in reaching major EU policy objectives such as the transition to a circular economy, as well as protecting and improving the quality of the environment and life. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

This strand [formerly LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency and Environmental Governance and Information] has co-financed 44 projects in Ireland thus far, representing a total investment of €104 million, of which €38 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects mainly targeted integrated environmental management, clean technologies, sensitive area management (coastal areas), end-of-life vehicle waste, urban design, and water quality improvement/monitoring. One project specifically aimed to strengthen the integration of tourism and natural heritage, and to reconcile tourism development with the conservation of biodiversity in the Burren region. Another project transformed an industrial space into a collaborative learning space. Local authorities and SMEs were the main beneficiaries.

There are two ongoing projects in Ireland. The Whey2LIFE project aims at addressing the environmental impacts of cheese production by overcoming the main barrier currently limiting the appropriate valorisation of whey permeate. The Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE project seeks to improve water quality in County Dublin and beyond by making it quicker and cheaper to carry out domestic misconnection inspections using a novel GIS-based approach, and by installing 5 Integrated Constructed Wetlands. The key goal of LIFE EMERALD is to strengthen air quality management in Ireland, to ensure effective implementation of the two complementary EU Ambient Air Quality Directives (AAQD) and to help implement the European Green Deal.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Ireland under this strand. The Waters of LIFE IP project's objectives are described below.



Restoring water quality and nature in Ireland's rivers and lakes (LIFE-IP Waters of Life) LIFE18 IPE/IE/000003

Ireland's river basin management plan for 2018-2021 sets out measures for protecting and improving the status of the country's freshwater bodies.

LIFE-IP Waters of Life will act as a river basin-scale demonstration project, testing the effectiveness of the plan's 'best practice' measures across a range of landscapes. The project will encourage local communities and landowners to get involved in developing management actions for farm- and forestland. It will also build synergies between measures addressing water quality and biodiversity, and enhance public appreciation of high-status water bodies and their catchment areas.

[Project summary](#)



LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The LIFE Climate change mitigation and adaptation strand will support actions which help implement the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and meet the European Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Projects under this strand will contribute to climate neutral and resilient economy.

Strategic Integrated Climate Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promote coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

To date, the Climate Change Mitigation strand has financed one project in Ireland. The LIFE Farm4More project aims to deliver climate change mitigating impacts for the livestock farming by implementing an economically viable organic animal feed and a biochar production strategy.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Ireland. The LIFE IP Peatlands and People's project's objectives are described below

The total investment for these project amounts to €33.5 million, of which the EU is contributing €13 million.



Restoring Ireland's peatlands to their former glory (LIFE IP Peatlands and People) LIFE19 IPC/IE/000007

Peatlands make up over 20% of Ireland's land area. They have many benefits such as locking away carbon and keeping it out of the atmosphere. In the past, Ireland's peatlands were harvested mainly for fuel: almost half of the original area has been lost as a result. Of those that remain, around 80% have been damaged. Ireland's goal is to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through its Climate Action Plan 2019. This Integrated Project will see state-owned enterprise *Bord na Móna* helping to bring the plan to fruition. It will restore almost 10 000 hectares of peatlands – an area around eight times as big as London Heathrow Airport. *Bord na Móna* will also develop a model to encourage economic growth in the Irish Midlands through training, job creation and new value chains. Also, a discovery centre will be set up to help change people's perceptions of peat, from a fuel source to an important natural asset.

[Project summary](#)



LIFE Clean Energy Transition

Building on the Intelligent Energy Europe (2003–2013) and Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency (2014–2020) programmes, the LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme continues to support the delivery of EU policies in the field of sustainable energy. In particular, it aims at facilitating the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy across Europe.

The LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme supports projects in the following five areas of intervention:

- 1) Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition;
- 2) Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market;
- 3) Attracting private finance for sustainable energy;
- 4) Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects;
- 5) Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition.

Want to know more about LIFE?

- Visit the [LIFE website](#) and [LIFE project database](#)

- Follow the LIFE programme on social media:



- Sign up to the [LIFE Programme](#) and [CINEA Clean Energy](#) Newsletters

- Contact the LIFE National contact point in your Member State:

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Ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Improving Corncrake conservation status in Ireland by the enhancement of the SPA network and surrounding farmland	LIFE18 NAT/IE/000090	Corncrake LIFE	https://www.corncrakelife.ie/	01/2020 -> 12/2024
Improving ecosystem resilience & reducing nutrient pollution in Lough Carra, one of Europe's premier SAC marl lakes	LIFE20 NAT/IE/000172	Lough Carra	N/A	09/2021 ->09/2026
Protecting and restoring Ireland's network of machair systems and associated breeding wader and pollinator communities	LIFE20 NAT/IE/000263	LIFE On Machair	N/A	02/2022 ->01/2028
Towards implementing the PAF for Ireland by protecting and restoring Ireland's blanket bog Natura Network along Atlantic seaboard	LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002	LIFE IP PAF-WILD ATLANTIC NATURE	https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/	01/2020 -> 12/2028

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
To demonstrate the effectiveness of stormwater improvement options in urban areas using proven decision making tools	LIFE17 ENV/IE/000281	Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE	https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/dublin-urban-rivers-life/	06/2018-> 06/2022
Extension of whey permeate value chain through industrial symbiosis to produce a valuable non-GMO yeast protein	LIFE18 ENV/IE/0000084	Whey2LIFE	http://www.whey2life.ie	07/2019-> 06/2022
Emissions Modelling and FoRecasting of Air in IreLanD	LIFE19 GIE/IE/001101	LIFE EMERALD	https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/air/life-emerald/	01/2021 -> 12/2023
Protect and restore high ecological status waterbodies in Ireland	LIFE18 IPE/IE/000003	LIFE-IP Waters of Life	N/A	11/2019 -> 12/2028

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
LIFE Farm4More - Future Agricultural Management for multiple outputs on climate and rural development	LIFE18 CCM/IE/001195	LIFE Farm4More	http://www.farm4more.eu/	07/2019 -> 06/2023
LIFE IP Peatlands and People - Irelands Climate Action Catalyst	LIFE19 IPC/IE/000007	LIFE IP Peatlands and People	https://peatlandsandpeople.ie/	10/2020 -> 09/2027