

Clinton Donovan

Community Climate Action Officer

Wexford County Council



# Wexford Community Climate Action Programme

Supporting Wexford to build low carbon communities





Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland 2040

# **Overview of Community Climate Action Programme**

#### **Strand 1**

Building Low Carbon Communities - €24m nationally

Funding from Dept Environment, Climate & Comms

Allocation for Wexford - €669,000

"...to support and empower communities, in partnership with their LA, to build low carbon, sustainable communities..."

#### **Strand 1A**

- Shared Island Community Climate Action €3m central national fund
- Cross border basis: lead organisation in Rol, partner organisation in NI

# What is the Community Climate Action Fund for?

Projects must deliver a <u>direct positive impact</u> on climate change by **reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and/or helping communities **adapt to the consequences of climate change**.

# **DIRECT CLIMATE ACTION**

➤ Reduce

Greenhouse gas emissions

➢Increase climate resilience

Assist transition to low carbon economy

# What is the Community Climate Action Fund?

# 100% project funding

Project Scale	Project Value	% of fund
Small Scale Projects	Up to €20,000	10%
Medium Scale Projects	€21,000 to €50,000	40%
Large Scale Projects	€51,000 to €100,000	50%

- Accessed through your Community Climate Action Officer
- Expression of Interest Application submit online form
- Expected to open in late November / early December, for 3 months
- Project must be completed in 18 months from letter of offer
- Likely to be oversubscribed (competitive assessment) but other funding opportunities are available

# **5 project themes**











# Theme 1: Community & Energy

Aim: reduce climate impact of community buildings by <u>using</u> <u>less energy</u>, using renewable energy and avoiding heat loss



- LED community lighting
- Small renewable energy projects (solar, wind)
- Rainwater harvesting
- Retrofitting community buildings (identify order of priory for works, what element
  - consumes the most energy)
    - > windows & doors
    - ➤ insulation (wall, attic)
    - > LED lighting



# Theme 2: Sustainable Travel

Aim: reduction in travel related emissions

- Cycle parking / racks
- Improving cycle way access
- Bike repair hubs







# Theme 3: Food and Waste

Aim: Reduce waste, promote locally grown produce

- Community composting facilities
- Community gardens
  - local food production
- Community fridges
- reduce GHG and redistribute food









DN Derry Now

#### Popular Derry community fridge receives funding boost

Community Fridges help tackle climate change at a local level as food waste can produce large amounts of greenhouse gases. ADVERTISEMENT -...



# Theme 4: Shopping and Recycling

Aim: increase variety and number of recycling facilities and reducing, reusing and recycling initiatives

- Re-use, upcycling (swap shops)
- Water filling stations
- Paint recycling
- Toy library





# Theme 5: Local climate & environmental action

Aim: take a holistic approach to managing the local environment and taking climate action



- Climate resilience measures to reduce harmful effects of extreme climate events
  - > planted mounds to slow flood water
  - > storm water wetlands (check site sensitivity)
- Mini forests
- Dispersed orchards (fruit trees)
- Community gardens
- Roof gardens
- Pollinator projects



# Who can apply? Building Low Carbon Communities

- not-for-profit organisation
- registered with PPN

or

connected with other collectives e.g. The Wheel, Tidy Towns

and /or a community group - Articles of Association or a Constitution - hold an AGM, approved minutes available

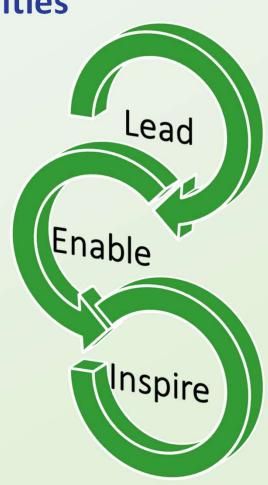
- own the land/premises or have a lease agreement (min 5 years)
- does not have the funds to undertake the project without this support



Who can apply?
Building Low Carbon Communities

# **NOT** eligible for Strand 1:

- Private individuals
- Commercial undertakings (including sole traders)
- Schools
- National community or environmental organisations
- Ongoing operational / running costs
- Education / awareness projects



# **Financial considerations**

- *Up to €50,000* seek 3 quotations
- Over €50,000 seek 5 quotations & may require advertisement on eTenders if using one contractor for entire project – discuss your project with the Community Climate Action Officer
- Invoices must <u>be paid by the Community Group before</u> the grant claim can be submitted (quarterly drawdowns as work is completed)
- Tax clearance cert / reg number required before payment of grant
- Bank / Post Office account in the name of the applicant group
- Can your group claim back VAT? If so, costs must exclude VAT

# **Preparation**

- Decide what do you want to do
- Why is your project needed? (does energy usage warrant the works?)
- Have regard to the Themes:

Representation of more than 1 theme in a project will elevate your application

(e.g insulation, rainwater harvesting, bicycle parking, community garden, water filling stations, swap shop)

- Ask questions Meet the Community Climate Action Officer
- One application per organisation
- Partner up with another group using the premises

# **Preparation**

#### Costs:

- Understand what is eligible. Value for money will be a factor
- Prepare realistic, accurate budget (inflation?)

# **Completing application form:**

- Have regard to the programme's objectives
- Supply supporting information (impact, energy consumption, form a project delivery subcommittee, show track record with previous grants)

## **Make Planning Permission enquiries:**

- Does the project require planning permission?
- Is the building listed as a protected structure?

# **Approximate timeline**



# Get the ball rolling now!



Decide on the scope of your project

Seek quotations (ensure like-for-like)

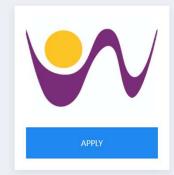
# **Online Application Form**

# **Community Climate Action Programme - Building Low Carbon Communities 2023 : Application**

No closing date

#### Description

The Community Climate Action Programme is a new programme to support small and large, rural and urban communities to take climate action at a local level. Wexford County Council in association with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), will provide funding to local communities for projects that promote community climate action.

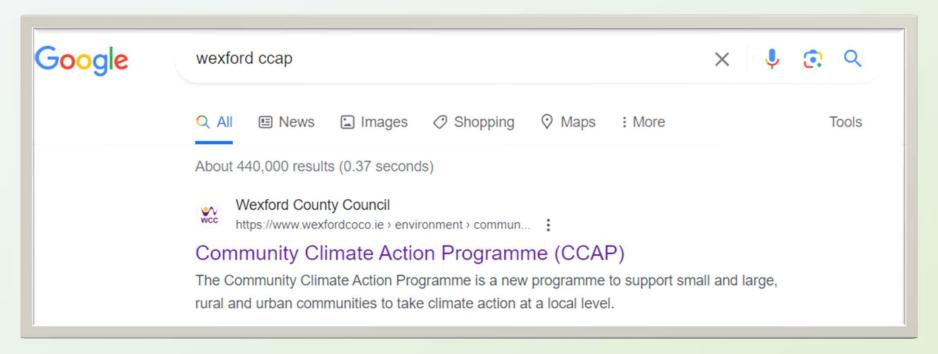


- User friendly platform
- Updates and link to form will be on Council Website (google Wexford CCAP)

# Get on the Climate Action mailing list! Climate Action Mailing List Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Wexford County Council CLIMATE ACTION NEXFORD ORD ORD OUR COUNTY. OUR OPPORTUNITY. OUR FUTURE Welcome to our first Climate Action Newsletter. We will aim to send these out to you to and about climate action in Welcome to our first Climate Action Newsletter. We will aim to send these out to you know what the Cteam is up to and about climate action in In this installment meet our Plan and upcoming function HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP 3. get updates on the Climate Action I'm not a robot TODAY Did you know that there will be a matress amnesty at our county recycling centres in Holmestown, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross in the coming weeks? For the €2 entrance fee you can get rid of up to 3 mattresses and all the household recycling you can fit in your car.

# MORE DETAILS....

# Google search: Wexford CCAP



What projects would your community do, representing what themes?











Next step - project planning

with Clinton Donovan

Wexford Community Climate Action Officer

Tel: 053-9196443 087-2139870

climateaction@wexfordcoco.ie

# ANY QUESTIONS?

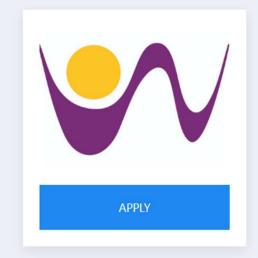
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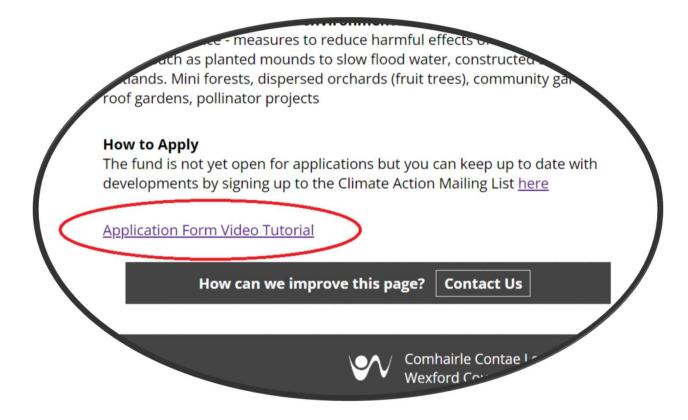
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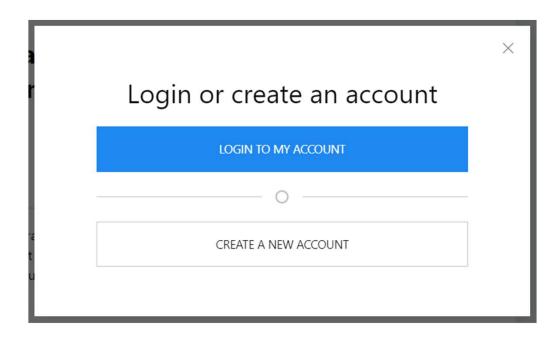
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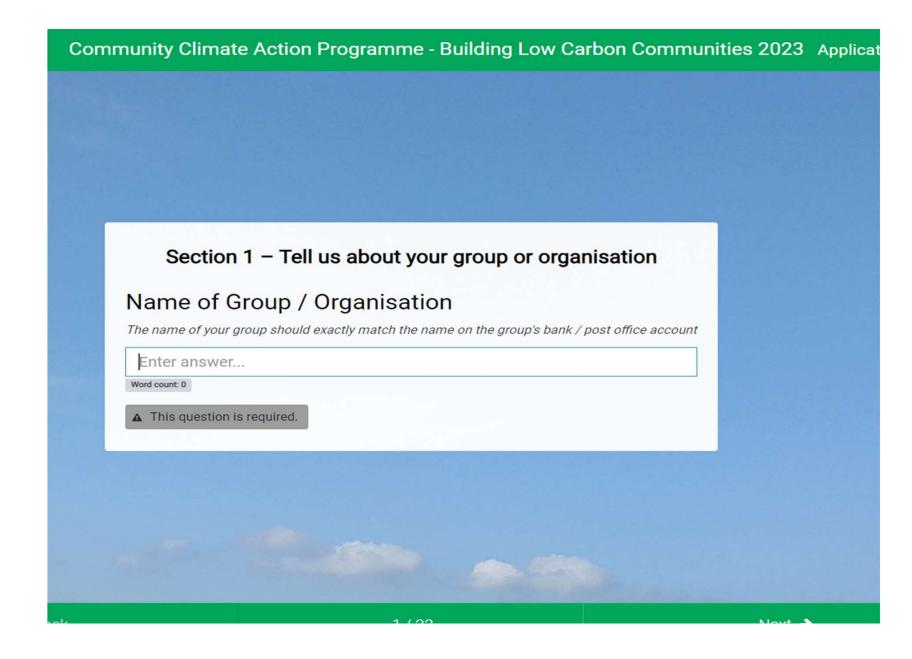
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# Video tutorial is available on the website google: "Wexford CCAP"







Section 1 - Tell us about your group or organisation

Eircode of property / closest property to where works are proposed

Enter address...

## Section 1 - Tell us about your group or organisation

Purpose of Group/Organisation

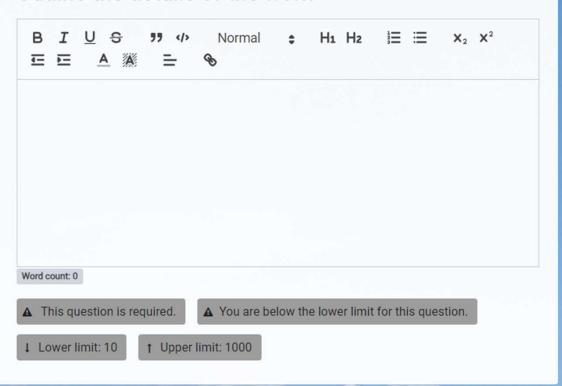


Word count: 0

## Purpose of the grant

What will the funding be used for? Note: This list is not exhaustive but gives examples of types of expenditure. Tick all that apply. ☐ Solar Panels and related equipment Energy efficient upgrades □ Community EV charging points ☐ Bike racks or other infrastructure □ Materials for community garden Pollinator project Water filling stations □ Retrofitting community buildings ☐ LED community lighting □ Low carbon technology/equipment Materials for repair hubs composting facilities Mini forest ☐ Other (Give details)

## Outline the details of the work



# Cost and funding requested

	Amount in €
Total project cost (inclusive of VAT)	■ Number Input
	Enter number
Amount of funding requested (inclusive of VAT)	■ Number Input
	Enter number

## Please show the main project costs below

Please include a minimum of three quotes for any purchases of goods for the project.

\*Where 3 quotes for a particular product/service is not possible or overly burdensome in the case of multiple project components, the requirement for 3 quotes per item may be waived and the application may be evaluated on the quotes available.

\*The applicant should consult with their Community Climate Action Officer with prior to submitting their application. The Local Authority must be satisfied that the application represents value for money and that the applicant has engaged with suppliers in developing their proposal

Item (Please specify the expenditure item - type of materials, equipment, goods, or operational costs)	Supplier	Cost in €
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# Please upload documentary evidence showing efforts made to obtain 3 quotes where possible

\*Where 3 quotes for a particular product/service is not possible or overly burdensome in the case of multiple project components, the requirement for 3 quotes per item may be waived and the application may be evaluated on the quotes available. Documentary evidence should be provided showing efforts made to obtain 3 quotes where possible. The applicant should consult with their Community Climate Action Officer with prior to submitting their application. The Local Authority must be satisfied that the application represents value for money and that the applicant has engaged with suppliers in developing their proposal

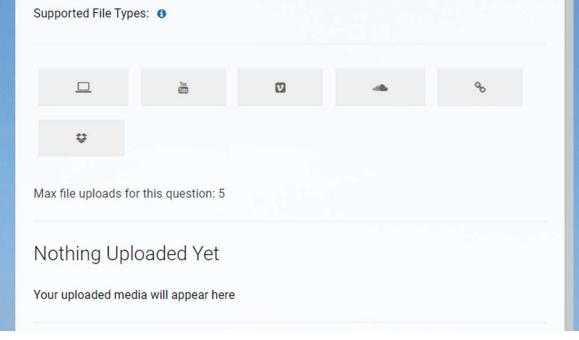
Supported File Types: 6

Max file uploads for this question: 25

Nothing Uploaded Yet

Your uploaded media will appear here

Please upload any supporting documentation (e.g. benefits of the project to the environment, potential emissions reduction, impact of the project on the local community)



# Assessment Criteria

Selection criterion	Weighting	Min. required	Basis for assessment
Relevance and impact	30%	15%	The project meets the objective of strand 1 to shape and build a low carbon community, and can clearly demonstrate the impact of the project in contributing to Ireland's climate and energy targets.
Innovation and scalability	20%	-	The project contains practical innovation/(s) and/or approaches. It has the potential to be scaled up or replicated in other communities post funding. The project has a lasting impact.
Value for money	20%	10%	The costs applied for are reasonable, represent an efficient use of resources and are commensurate with the quality and nature of the activities proposed.
			Realistic, specific and relevant outputs and outcomes are identified, which are commensurate with the level of investment.
Achievability	10%	5%	The organisation/partnership has the appropriate expertise to deliver the proposed project. The proposal is clear and coherent and is deliverable within the timeframe.

Partnership approach	10%	-	Any Partner/Consortium roles and responsibilities are clearly outlined with partnership agreements in place (where applicable). The proposal demonstrates how all key stakeholders will be involved in the planning and implementation of the proposal.
Governance arrangements	10%	5%	Any necessary governance and financial management systems, controls and processes are in place to meet the requirements of the programme. Where applicable, evidence of tax compliance and registration with relevant bodies is supplied. Details of track record in managing other state funding is supplied.
	100%		

Impacts: Outline how your project provides environmental benefits under each of the themes and how it will contribute to Ireland's climate & energy targets

5 themes: Community Energy, Sustainable Travel, Food & Waste, Shopping & Recycling, Local Environmental Action

Enter answer...

Innovation & Scalability:

- (a) Outline how your project is unique / innovative.
- (b) Outline the potential for replication in other communities (how it sets a good example)

Enter answer...

Achievability: Outline your project delivery schedule / plan

Enter answer...

# Value for Money:

- (a) How does your project represent good value for money and efficient use of resources?
- (b) Outline how the project costs justify the potential benefit of the works such as energy savings

Enter answer...

# Partnership approach:

- (a) Any partner groups should be listed and responsibilities be clearly outlined
- (b) Outline the positive impacts on the broader community beyond your organisation

Enter answer...

#### Section 3 - State Aid Questionnaire

The Community Climate Action Programme is funded by State resources and as such the following three questions must be answered to determine whether or not funding your organisation's proposal could constitute state aid.

#### Does the funding confer an advantage on one or more undertaking over others?

Note:

An "advantage" can take many forms: not just a grant, loan or tax break, but also use of a state asset for free or at less than market price. Essentially, it is something an undertaking could not get in the normal course of business.

An "undertaking" is any organisation engaged in economic activity. - This is about activity rather than legal form, so non-profit organisations, charities and public bodies can all be undertakings, depending on the activities they are involved in. - An undertaking can also include operators and

Economic activity" means putting goods or services on a market is not necessary to make a profit to be engaged in economic activity. If others in the market offer the same good or service, it is an economic activity.

Support to an organisation engaged in a non-economic activity isn't State aid, e.g. support to individuals through the social security system is not state aid.



18/22

Next -



#### Section 3 - State Aid Questionnaire

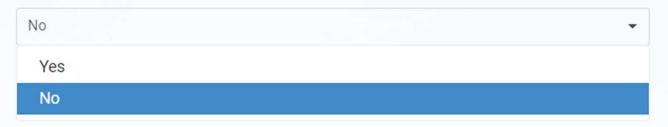
The Community Climate Action Programme is funded by State resources and as such the following three questions must be answered to determine whether or not funding your organisation's proposal could constitute state aid.

# Does this funding distort or have the potential to distort competition?

Note:

If the assistance strengthens the recipient relative to its competitors then the answer is likely to be "yes".

The "potential to distort competition" does not have to be substantial or significant: may include relatively small amounts of financial support to firms with modest market share.



#### Section 3 - State Aid Questionnaire

The Community Climate Action Programme is funded by State resources and as such the following three questions must be answered to determine whether or not funding your organisation's proposal could constitute state aid.

# Does the awarding of this funding have the potential to affect Trade between EU member states?

Note:

The interpretation of this is broad: it is enough that a product or service is tradable between Member States, even if the recipient does not itself export to other EU Markets.



Governance: Outline your track record with previous grant schemes. Outline details of your project management subcommittee

Enter answer...

#### Section 4 - De Minimis Questionnaire

This section should only be completed if you answered "yes" to each of the three questions in section 3.

If you answered 'no' to any of the three questions in section 3, then please move on to section 5

#### The amount of De Minimis aid received by the organisation over the last 3 fiscal years is as follows:

Where you have answered "yes" to all of the questions above, please complete this section to determine if you are eligible to receive State aid received under the De Minimis Regulation (EC) No 1998 / 2006. If the information provided below indicates you are eligible to receive funding under the De Minimus Regulation please fill out the declaration form in respect of this.

- Please provide details of all other De Minimis state aid which has been granted to your organisation, within the past three fiscal years, e.g. from a state agency, government department, Local Enterprise Office, local authority, LEADER funding etc.
- When a Granting Authority grants De Minimis aid to an undertaking, it must explicitly inform the enterprise of the De Minimis character of the aid and reference Regulation 1407/2013; this will enable the grantee to declare it in future applications for De Minimis support.
- It should be noted that a false declaration by a company resulting in the threshold of €200,000 being exceeded could later give rise to the aid being recovered with interest.

If you have already reached the maximum threshold of €200,000 De Minimus state aid over the three relevant years you may not be eligible to receive funding under this programme. Please highlight this to your Community Climate Action Officer.

Funder/Organisation that provided the Aid	Date Funding was Approved	Amount €
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#### Section 5 - Declaration

#### Signed:

- · I declare that the information given in this form is correct.
- $\cdot$   $\,$  I confirm I have read and fully understand the Terms and Conditions of the Programme on page 1 of this form
- · I confirm that I have read and fully understand the Guidelines prior to completing this form.
- $\cdot$   $\;$  I confirm that this grant application is submitted in acceptance of and compliance with the Terms and Conditions.
- · I confirm that the applicant group/organisation is tax compliant (if tax registered).

Clinton Donovan

Signed Cliffon Down

Once your application form is submitted, you will need to check your email in order to verify your signature.

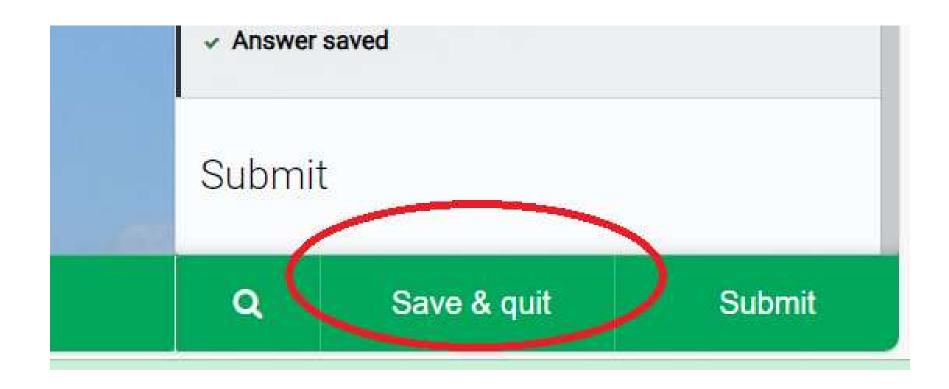
# Submit your application

Community Climate Action Programme - Building Low Carbon
Communities 2023

You have 1 signature on this application. When you click on "Submit" below, an email will be sent to you asking you to validate your identity for this signature.

Back

Submit







## What is the PPN?

Under the Local Government Act 2014, PPNs were established as a way to build a network of community, social inclusion and environmental groups who work within a local authority area.

The PPN purpose is to empower and assist groups to participate in local decision making.



# Main Objectives of Wexford PPN



Sharing information across members and to members. Information can vary from details of public consultations, training events, funding opportunities to member events.



Helping groups in achieving their objectives, by further developing themselves, through access to conferences, training, mentoring, networking, seminars etc.

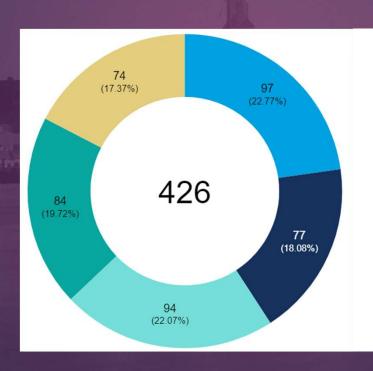


Offering communities a seat and a voice at the decision-making tables within the county - allowing members to help in shaping important decision making.



# Our Member Groups

Currently, we have 426 registered member groups.



Gorey/Kilmukridge – 97

Rosslare - 77

Wexford – 94

New Ross - 84

Enniscorthy – 74

#### **Pillars**

Community - 346

Social Inclusion - 59

Environmental - 21



# Apply online to join

# www.wexfordppn.ie

- Average of 4 weeks for membership to be ratified
- Group must have been formed at least 6 months ago

# Thank you for attending.