

15<sup>th</sup> November, 2020



Dear County Clare Planners and Decision Makers,

Your call for submissions, I gladly embrace owing my motivation and action to the hope that my little granddaughter, in 2050 aged 33, will live in a county, in a country, on a planet that is still green and capable of supporting comfortable and enjoyable life.

Following careful perusal of the Clare County Development Plan 2022 – 2028: Issue Paper, I am submitting, requesting and proposing for County Clare to declare a county-wide adoption of a

- **100% Organic** (with natural soil building methods)
- **100% Chemical-free** (Pesticide-free, Herbicide-free and Fungicide-free)
- **100% GMO-free** (for animals and plants favouring Heirloom, Heritage, Organic and Open Pollinated Seeds)

life-style and work-style.

An Organic, Chemical-free and GMO-free County Clare is able to solve and combat a wealth of serious and damaging environmental threats, such as water pollution, air pollution, soil pollution, species extinction, habitat loss and loss of biodiversity. Many of today's extreme and alarming environmental ails can be cured with the simple but courageous decision of declaring County Clare Organic, Chemical-free and GMO-free.

Most importantly, globally advancing desertification, soil degradation and soil depletion can be reversed with zero-till restorative agriculture, polyculture, versus monoculture, as well as permaculture and agroforestry, all of which minimise our ecological footprint. Soil generating agroecology is a simple and inexpensive technique to support communities in County Clare on their future journey; a journey that allows living and working in local communities without extensive commutes which in itself resolves infrastructure, fuel and CO2 emissions issues.

An Organic, Chemical-free and GMO-free County Clare, where open pollinated Organic heirloom and heritage seeds with their more robust properties and greater adaptability to changing environmental conditions are grown and saved, would sparkle like the jewel in the crown, like a beacon that heralds a sustainable future for our generation as well as future citizens promising clean water, nourishing and continued food supply as well as natural reinstatement of the all-important, life-sustaining biodiversity and ecology.

- Going Organic, Chemical-free and GMO-free can create new and local employment opportunities for farmers, growers, seed savers and the hospitality industry, for the tourism industry and for entrepreneurs, etc.
- Going Organic has been a very positive direction for "Organic Himalaya", a project which includes Bhutan, Nepal, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.
- Sikkim was awarded the accolade of first Organic State of India and the world, a transition that was greatly aided by Dr Vandana Shiva and Navdanya's constant work with the government of Sikkim.
- Going GMO-free means joining several European, African, Asian and South American countries such as Peru, Austria, Greece and Bhutan on their eco-friendly and natural journey.

Declaring County Clare Organic, Chemical-free and GMO-free is a move toward sustainability which allows for a harmonious and creative collaboration between government, farmer, grower and citizen with a nature-centred approach and solution to climate change and the soil, water and air pollution crisis.

During the Coronavirus pandemic with its "stay local" policy, thousands if not millions of Earth's citizens opted to spend time with and in nature in their immediate environment helping them to better mental wellbeing and giving them coping mechanisms as well as a re-acquaintance with the natural habitat.

Going Organic, Chemical-free and GMO-free is an opportunity for Clare County Council to show real leadership, foresight and future proofing for its citizens and equally for its fauna and flora as well as for its air, water and soil. Furthermore, such a brave step would help other Irish counties and other nations to follow suit in turning an environmental challenge into an amazing opportunity. Taking action now can stem back the flood of despair that is sure to follow if remaining on the trodden path. Climate refugees would be most grateful, **if County Clare "became the change that we want to see in the world today"** (Gandhi).

In the Issue Paper, eight points for consideration are listed with

- point 6: *Built and Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure* (p. 23),
- point 7: *Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Environment* (p.26) and
- point 8: *Social, Community and Cultural Development* (p. 28)

appearing toward the end with key words such as

- Vernacular heritage ... Natural heritage ... Biodiversity and heritage ... at the heart of public life
- Protecting and improving our environment and heritage ... for all who work, live and visit County Clare
- Protecting our precious natural environment
- Green infrastructure ... health and well-being benefits
- Vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities ... grow sustainably
- High quality of life ... Attractive place to live, work and socialise
- Rich and varied cultural tradition ... Social and community infrastructure
- Potential adverse impacts of climate change evidenced by recent extreme weather events on our way of life
- Low-carbon, climate resilient ... Decarbonisation, resource efficiency, climate resilience
- 2030: 50% Energy Efficiency ... 30% Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Consider an alternative Issue Paper which leads to a Development Plan, with points 6, 7 and 8 at its core; an Issue Paper / County Development Plan that takes the attitude that "Key challenges we face" (p. 6) are indeed key opportunities for a brighter future that preserves most of our way of life, our heritage and culture whilst sending a definite message to the rest of the country and indeed the world, saying that we are all about sustainability, ecology and biodiversity for the good of our citizens and our environment now and in years to come.

With the unfolding of the pandemic and the consequent shift to a new reality and normality, who could possibly object to going Organic, Chemical-free and GMO-free in the pursuit of sustainability, biodiversity, ecology, climate change mitigation, CO2 sequestration and community resilience?

Therefore, my submission, request and proposal for the Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028 is to go **100% Organic, 100% Chemical-free and 100% GMO-free** as a post-pandemic vision where County Clare can prosper and flourish on the road less travelled.

Yours sincerely,

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Cornelia Wahli  
Operation de-Plastification  
Slim your Bin or Bin your Bin Challenge



## Supporting Material

### Clare County Development Plan 2022 – 2028: Issue Paper

<b><u>Key challenges we face</u></b>	p.6
1. Unique identity ... strengths ....	
2. Shannon, Ennis and Compact Growth	
3. Carbon footprint 2050 Zero Emissions	
4. Sustainable mobility	
5. Towns/villages: centres of vibrancy and vitality with multi-functional uses: entertaining, living, gathering, shopping etc	
6. Housing	
7. Living differently	
8. Living sustainably	
9. Ageing population	
10. Infrastructure: economics and quality of life	
11. Employment opportunities, economic opportunities, sustainable locations	
<b><u>The Vision for County Clare 2017 – 2023</u></b>	p.7
Preferred international destination for sustainable investment and innovation	
<b>1. Population and Housing</b>	p.8
Sustainable communities	
<b>2. Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development</b>	p.12
Sustainable economic development	
Ennis self-sustaining regional economic driver ....expansion and diversification of its economic offering	p.13
Shannon Estuary	p.14
1. unspoilt unique natural environment	
2. Wild Atlantic Way	
3. Shannon Estuary Way	
<b>3. Towns and Villages</b>	p.16
Sustainable economic and social development	
Local development	
Sustainable development	
Improved quality of life	
Protecting the natural environment	
<b>4. Rural Development</b>	p.18
Sustainable harnessing ... quality of life	
Local commercial activities	
Protect unique countryside	
<b>5. Transport and Infrastructure</b>	p.20
Economic activities	
Social well-being	
Mobility of people	
Distribution of goods	
Sustainable transport:	
1. Control Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
2. Control Air Pollution	
3. Control Environmental Damage	
Sustainable connectivity	p.21
Drinking water	p.22
Waste water	

<b>6. Built and Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure</b>	p.23
Vernacular heritage	
Natural heritage: Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural heritage areas	p.24
Biodiversity and heritage ... at the heart of public life	
1. Clare County Development Plan	2017 – 2023
2. Clare County Heritage Plan	2017 – 2023
3. Clare County Biodiversity Plan	2017 - 2023
Green infrastructure ... health and well-being benefits	
<b>7. Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Environment</b>	p.26
Protecting and improving our environment and heritage ... for all who work, live and visit County Clare	
Protecting our precious natural environment	
Potential adverse impacts of climate change	
Low-carbon, climate resilient	
National Climate Action Plan:	
1. 2030 – 50% Energy Efficiency	
2. 2030 – 30% Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
Decarbonisation, resource efficiency, climate resilience	
potential adverse impacts of climate change evidenced by recent extreme weather events on our way of life	p.27
1. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	
2. Strategic Environmental Assessment	
3. Appropriate Assessment	
<b>8. Social, Community and Cultural Development</b>	p.28
Vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities ... grow sustainably	
High quality of life	
Attractive place to live, work and socialize	
Social and community infrastructure	
1. Clare Age Friendly Plan	2018 – 2020
2. Healthy Clare Strategic Plan	2019 – 2021
3. Clare Rural Development Strategy	2026
Rich and varied cultural tradition	
The big picture ... forward planning	p.30
Spatial vision and future direction	p.3
more attractive, inclusive, competitive and sustainable county	p.4
Project Ireland 2040:	p.5
1. National Planning Framework	2018 – 2027
2. National Development Plan	2018 – 2027
Climate Action Adaptation Strategy	

## 100 % Organic

### **Drona Chetri, Communication & Program Head, NAVDANYA, Earth University - Bija Vidyapeeth**

Information on "Organic Himalaya" and Sikkim

#### **A message from Dr Vandana Shiva for the New Year 2020**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV4H-Pu4qYE>

88,421 views

Dec 27, 2019

3:02 mins

#### **Polyculture Gardens**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n84qCDwA5uY>

3,009 views

May 31, 2015

3:27 mins

Loren Luyendyk shows us how integrated pest management and the principle of polyculture gardening can benefit the health and success of your crops.

#### **Regenerative Agriculture / Regenerative Farming**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEZvF68sytC>

91,965 views

Jun 25, 2020

4:02 mins

Regenerative agriculture is an effective way to restore biodiversity and stabilize the climate, but what exactly is it? This video explores three different regenerative practices that have great potential both in food production and in healing the land.

## 100 % Chemical-free

#### **Farming without plant protection products**

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2019/634416/EPRS\\_IDA%282019%29634416\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2019/634416/EPRS_IDA%282019%29634416_EN.pdf)

Food security and healthy food for 11 billion people by 2100 is one of the biggest challenges of this century. It is one of the most important, if not the most important, human rights, and any agricultural system has to fulfil this requirement within the planetary sustainability boundaries. This implies that no further land increase for agriculture is acceptable, since this is the most important driver for biodiversity loss, greenhouse gas increase and environmental impact.

##### 5.1. PPPs and biodiversity

The use of PPPs negatively influences biodiversity. However, this should be put in a correct context. The main impact on reduction of biodiversity is the altered land use, habitat loss and fragmentation, which counts already for 80% of the biodiversity reduction. A study of Sánchez-Bayo and Wyckhuys, (2019) confirms the high impact of land use change on biodiversity loss, but they claim that a major driver of biodiversity loss is the intensification of agriculture.

#### **Agroecology explained to children....parents can watch**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLqYE-m2nE4>

21,073 views

Oct 16, 2017

4:27 mins

## 100 % GMO-free

#### **EPA - Environmental Protection Agency**

file:///C:/Users/PC/Documents/O%20R%20G%20A%20N%20I%20C/WhoweAre\_digital\_Sept\_2019%20-%20EPA.pdf

<https://www.epa.ie/about/roles/>

<https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/other/corporate/epa-whoweare-whatwedo.html>

[https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/other/corporate/WhoweAre\\_digital\\_Sept\\_2019.pdf](https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/other/corporate/WhoweAre_digital_Sept_2019.pdf)

Licensing and regulating the following activities so that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment. We licence:

- waste facilities (e.g. landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g. pharmaceutical, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture (e.g. pigs, poultry);
- the **contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**;
- sources of ionising radiation (e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

#### **Irish Seed Savers Association**

<http://www.irishseedsavers.ie/irish-biodiversity-conservation-projects.php>

Preserving Irish Biodiversity: We have over 600 varieties of heritage, open pollinated vegetable varieties from Ireland and from gene banks around the world.



### **GIY = Grow It Yourself**

<https://giy.ie/archive/seeds.html>

Seeds are quite a paradox

### **Selecting Seeds: Heilloom vs Organics vs Hybrid vs GMO**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAMcwmBI-IU>

28,955 views

Jan 19, 2015

7:50 mins

### **What Seed to Buy? GMO < Hybrid or Heirloom**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkUhOLr\\_Id4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkUhOLr_Id4)

17,132 views

Aug 18, 2017

4:36 mins

### **United for a GMO-free Peru**

<https://www.slowfood.com/united-for-a-gmo-free-peru/>

Under the slogan "United for a GMO-free Peru" (Unidos por un Perú libre de transgénicos), the campaign aims to gather more than 20 thousand signatures through the [Change.org](https://www.change.org/) platform in support of the request for the renewal of the moratorium law on the entry of GM crops (genetically-modified) to Peru (Law N°29811), which is in effect until 2021.

### **Peru Bans GMO Crops Until 2021**

<https://www.themacateam.com/peru-bans-gmo-crops-until-2021>

Some great news for all Maca lovers: Peru is GMO free at least until 2021. Back in June 2011 Peru's government declared a 10 year moratorium on the import or cultivation of any GMO crop. This means that all crops from Peru, including Maca, are inherently GMO Free.

Peru joins Venezuela and Ecuador in South America and Austria, Greece, Poland and Russia in Europe as completely GMO Free zones.

### **Countries That Ban Gmos 2020**

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-that-ban-gmos>

Several countries around the world have banned the use of GMOs.

GMO-free countries 2020				
	Europe	Africa	Asia	Americas
1	France	Algeria	Turkey	Belize
2	Germany	Madagascar	Kyrgyzstan	Ecuador
3	Austria		Bhutan	Peru
4	The Netherlands		Saudi Arabia	Venezuela
5	Luxemburg			
6	Denmark			
7	Greece			
8	Hungary			
9	Bulgaria			
10	Malta			
11	Italy			
12	Croatia			
13	Poland			
14	Latvia			
15	Lithuania			
16	Slovenia			

## **Desertification**

### **Desertification [English]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9RxnuBiFbg>

220,406 views

Oct 10, 2011

6:01 mins

Contrary to popular perception, desertification is not the loss of land to desert or through sand-dune movement. It refers to land degradation resulting from climatic variations and human activities. It is not a natural process; it is the result of mankind's actions. Today, a third of land is threatened by desertification.

### Stories from the Dust Bowl (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tIWgZHbsOA> 20,392 views Mar 14, 2019 56:44

Smoky Hills Public Television produced a documentary titled, "Stories from The Dust Bowl." Through the use of old photographs, music, film and interviews with those who lived through this time period, Smoky Hills Public Television presents a special program that tells the story of this critical time in history. It is important to capture the recollections and stories from the past to learn of the hardships of those who survived and continued to make a life and home in Kansas and the plains. There are many stories to be told; however many of those will soon be gone.

### THE DUST BOWL: A Film By Ken Burns

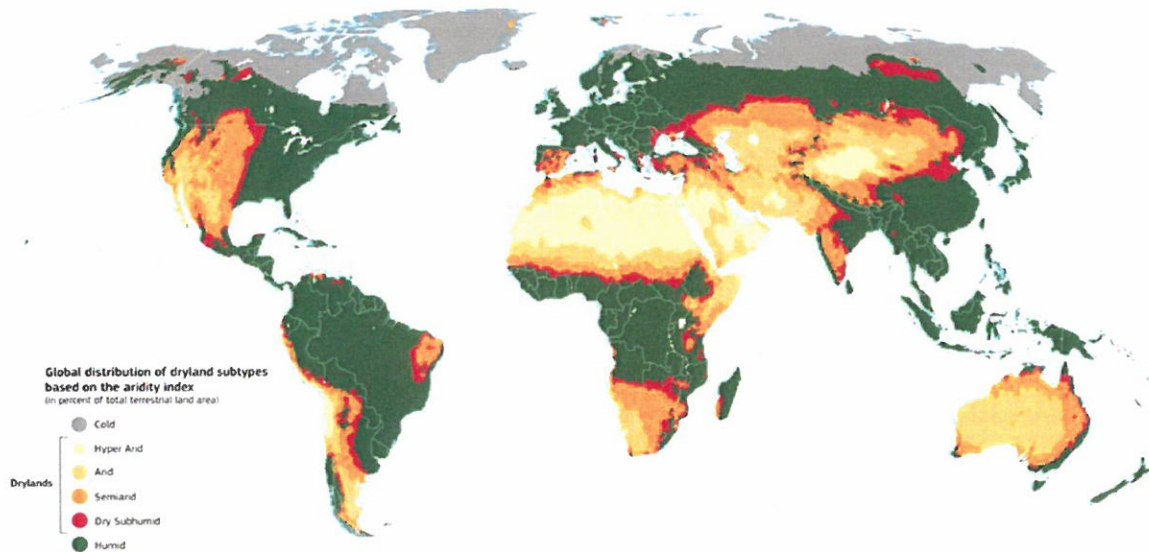
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYOmjQQ\\_UMw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYOmjQQ_UMw) 558,535 views 1:43 mins

Witness the catastrophic dust storms, incredible human suffering and equally incredible stories of human perseverance as Ken Burns chronicles our country's worst man-made ecological disaster. THE DUST BOWL now streaming at <https://to.pbs.org/34dt8Lr>

### 'Desertification' and the role of climate change

<http://inwrdam.org.io/2020/05/desertification/>

Desertification has been described as "the greatest environmental challenge of our time" and climate change is making it worse.



The observed distribution of different aridity levels, based on data for 1981-2010. Shading colour indicates regions defined as

cold (grey)	arid (pale orange)
dry sub-humid (red)	semi-arid (dark orange)
humid (green)	hyper-arid (pale yellow)

Map produced by the European Commission's Joint Research Unit

