



## **Challenge Europe Northern Ireland/Ireland 2009-2010**

### **Challenge Europe**

Challenge Europe is the European element of the British Council's global climate programme. It is a three-year campaign that aims to make a definite and lasting impact on the climate change debate across Europe

In local and international teams, advocates will work with experts from various sectors to identify and explore climate related issues and challenges through investigations and activities locally and across Europe. The challenges should be practical and tangible and should be designed to change business practice, policy or public behaviour

Once challenges have been developed and concepts finalised, advocates will then meet with and lobby decision makers to turn these ideas and concepts into action. They will challenge entrepreneurs, corporations and other organisations to invest in and adopt their ideas and will participate in dissemination and media activities in-country and internationally. Virtual networks, forums and visits will also facilitate advocates in sharing ideas, expertise and good practice across the following countries: Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, UK and Ukraine

Across the island of Ireland, we have 15 dynamic and talented advocates in 2009 who hail from a variety of backgrounds, from a Belfast based solicitor to a corporate consultant in Navan. They will work together with teams from the 14 other European countries, forming a unique network of approximately 200 'Climate Advocates';

their challenge - to develop 40 tangible ideas that will change the way we use carbon forever

**Website:** <http://challengeeurope.britishcouncil.org/>  
[www.britishcouncil.org/nireland](http://www.britishcouncil.org/nireland)  
[www.britishcouncil.org/ireland](http://www.britishcouncil.org/ireland)

### **British Council**

The British Council is the UK's international cultural relations organisation which operates in 110 countries and territories worldwide. Its purpose is to build mutually beneficial relationships between the UK and other countries and to increase appreciation and understanding of the UK's creative ideas and achievements

Following a recent strategic review, the British Council's mission in Europe is now firmly focused on creating partnerships and networks for the benefit of the UK in the world. Its vision is to work on a cross regional basis with Europe's next generation of leaders and influencers. For the island of Ireland, this will mean our offices in Dublin and Belfast working much more closely in the development and delivery of a range of innovative North/South and European projects in the programme areas of Climate Change, Inter-Cultural Dialogue and Creative and Knowledge Economy

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## Core Partner Organisations NI/Ireland 2008-2011



### **Arena Network - Business in the Community Northern Ireland**

**Business in the Community** is a unique movement of more than 230 companies in Northern Ireland that make an impact across four theme areas of the environment, workplace, cohesive communities and economic impact

### **Cultivate Living and Learning Centre**

**Cultivate** is a hub for a community of people and activities. By providing the tools and facilities that support people's efforts to become more sustainable, Cultivate aims to be an engine of local economy, community building and cultural renewal

### **Comhar Sustainable Development Council**

**Comhar** was established in 1999 as the Irish forum for national consultation and dialogue on all issues relating to sustainable development. Comhar works in three-year cycles and aims to assess the policy relevance of issues, to give informed and balanced perspectives and recommendations and to add value to existing work by other organisations.

### **Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Commission**

The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) is the UK Government's independent watchdog on sustainable development, reporting to the Prime Minister, the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales and the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland. Through advocacy, advice and appraisal, we help to put sustainable development at the heart of Government policy.



## Challenge Europe Projects NI/Ireland 2008-2009

### ① Title: Corporate Carbon Club Community

**The Idea:** To develop a working template for carbon clubs, which will enable companies to introduce environmentally friendly practices within their organisations through employee engagement. Carbon club activities may include calculating the organisation's carbon footprint, informing colleagues and raising awareness on the issues of climate change and supporting the implementation of a range of carbon friendly options

### ② Title: IRELAND'S CLIMATE CHALLENGE 2020

**The idea:** Using knowledge of predicted climate scenarios and forecasted Green House Gas emission data, the climate advocates will spell out in 300 words the policy measures that they would use to reduce Ireland's carbon footprint in 2020. In tandem, a mapping exercise will be undertaken to show useful case studies of actions and policy initiatives that have been taken by universities on the island of Ireland

### ③ Title: Climate Change Exchange

**The Idea:** To become effective spokespeople for 'Challenge Europe' and the pressing issues of climate change in NI/Ireland and further a field. This will be achieved by building the capacity of advocates, raising the profile of Challenge Europe internally and externally and engaging media at all possible levels

### Title: Project Better Place

④ **The Idea:** to promote the development of an electric car network in Ireland, as per the 'Project Better Place model', thus achieving serious reductions in Ireland's CO2 emissions. To simultaneously lobby government and relevant stakeholders towards the implementation of such a scheme in Northern Ireland and where possible, to link in with similar government proposals already under development in Ireland and Great Britain.

### ⑤ Title: S.O.U.L. Food Growing Communities - (Seasonal, Organic, Unprocessed, Local)

**The Idea:** The project hopes to encourage more people to grow their own food and this will be realised in two ways: Collaboration with community garden groups throughout the island of Ireland, to include the formation of a community food initiative networking website; drafting of a national policy on community gardens and other non-commercial horticultural initiatives