### G8: Natural, Cultural and Built Environment – Actions

The encouragement of a deeper understanding of the biodiversity of Co. Kilkenny will result in more enlightened physical development, and will support the creation of a strong culture of environmental sustainability across the county. It will also underpin the protection of the environment and local heritage as a driver of economic gain, rendering the locality as a better place in which to live and work.

A greater appreciation of the heritage of the county will encourage the implementation of measures that expand upon key aspects of both cultural and educational tourism, building on the existing urban and rural infrastructure of the county.

#### G8: Actions Summary

**A42:** Undertake to map the natural and cultural assets within the county with a view to a maintenance and protection whilst addressing access to job creation and skills development potential.

**A43:** Support community and farm based initiatives to encourage wildlife and environmental protection.

**A44:** Design and implement biodiversity awareness initiatives within industry, schools and communities.

**A45:** Support the development of the Abbey Creative Quarter.

**A46:** Expand the Better Energy Communities Initiative in Kilkenny to promote energy efficiency measures and promote cost savings through energy efficiency programmes and training for the local business community. This will include working with the Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency to promote energy efficiency best practice.

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| **High-Level Goal** | **High-Level Outcome** | **Objective** | **Co-Ordinating Body** | **Key Partner Organisations** | **Timeframe** | **Project Milestones** | **Actions** |
| **G8:** Natural, Cultural and Built Environment | A deeper understanding of the natural, cultural and built assets of Co. Kilkenny. This will help to protect the environment and local heritage. | **O9:** Encourage and support biodiversity and the protection and enhancement of local heritage and culture. | KCC | Heritage Council; Kilkenny ETB; Skillnets; Failte Ireland | 2016-2019 | Mapping exercise completed.Action plan agreed.Engagement of agencies.No. of training Initiatives completed.No. of jobs created. | **A42:** Undertake to map the natural and cultural assets within the county with a view to a maintenance and protection whilst identifying job creation and skills development potential. |
| NPWS; FARMING ORGANISATIONS; Tidy Towns; Community and Resident’s Groups | 2016-2019 | No. of biodiversity initiatives completed.No. of individuals engaged. | **A43:** Support community and farm based initiatives to encourage wildlife and environmental protection. |
| IBEC; EI; Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce; Schools; Community and Resident’s Groups | 2016-2021 | No. of biodiversity initiatives completed.No. of individuals engaged. | **A44:** Design and implement biodiversity awareness initiatives within industry, schools and communities. |
| Heritage Council; Failte Ireland; Kilkenny Tourism; Crafts Council of Ireland | 2015-2021 | Phased development plan agreed and progressed. | **A45:** Support the development of the Abbey Creative Quarter. |
| Local communities of place and interest will be encouraged to innovatively consider the implementation of key aspects of the green economy and the adoption of appropriate alternative and smart energy solutions. | **O10:** Support energy efficiency and maximise the circular economy potential. | KCEA | KCC; IBEC; Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce; Kilkenny Leader Partnership; LEO; EI | 2016-2021 | Expansion plan agreed.No. of training initiatives.No. of businesses participating.No. of follow on actions/change in practices. | **A46:** Expand the *Better Energy Communities Initiative* in Kilkenny to promote energy efficiency measures and promote cost savings through energy efficiency programmes and training for the local business community. This will include working with the Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency to promote energy efficiency best practice. |