



## Green New Deal

### Short Summary

Ireland faces strong challenges over the next few years relating to the sustainability of the economy, our natural environment, and the well-being of society. Failure to address these challenges will put at risk our ability to prosper both as a society and economy in the future. The current global financial crisis has only underlined our need to put sustainability at the heart of our economic recovery.

Comhar SDC welcomes the Government's strategy 'Building Ireland's Smart Economy: A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal' which was launched by the Taoiseach in December 2008. This strategy, *inter alia*, aims to implement a 'new green deal' to move Ireland away from fossil fuel-based energy production through investment in renewable energy and to promote the green enterprise sector and the creation of 'green-collar' jobs.

To support the implementation of this strategy, Comhar SDC is advocating a Green New Deal (GND) for Ireland. Such a deal proposes to deliver a programme that not only addresses the economic challenge but also environmental and social problems, thereby leading to improvements in overall well-being of the population. Fundamentally, it involves realigning policy with overarching sustainable development goals at all levels of society.

While much has been written describing a high level vision, concrete policies are needed at local and national level to progress Ireland to this goal. This report sets out Comhar SDC's position on what a Green New Deal should entail for Ireland and makes concrete recommendations for action.

A number of critical issues are analysed in relation to formulating a Green New Deal for Ireland. These include examining the priority areas for green stimulus investment and the policy instruments required to transform it from concept to reality. There is clearly an issue for Government in terms of raising the level of funding required to finance such a programme. Therefore, the paper also explores possible financing mechanisms for long-term funding of a green recovery.

It is intended that this report will provide a roadmap to the development and further consideration of a Green New Deal for Ireland. The report itself is a snapshot of current developments and thinking in an area which is evolving all the time. It builds on existing and future work that has taken place both in Ireland and internationally.

Full report available on the website at the link:

<http://www.comharsdc.ie/publications/index.aspx?PAuto=274>