

Natural Resources

Renewable Energy

Kerry County Council adopted a Renewable Energy Strategy in 2012. The promotion of renewable energy throughout the County is important for economic as well as environmental reasons. Renewable energy projects offer opportunities for the reduction of greenhouse gases to the environment and a long-term sustainable energy source. Development of renewable energy solution and infrastructure can lead to employment in construction and ongoing maintenance.



Forestry

Under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, initial afforestation up to 50Ha is exempted from the need to apply for planning permission. As a result the majority of afforestation developments are unregulated by the Council.

Aside from the obvious economic benefits of forestry as a renewable resource and generation of employment it can also provide a habitat for the wildlife throughout the County and an amenity for the public.



Extractive Industry

The extractive industry provided essential raw materials for the construction industry as well as providing employment and economic growth in the local and regional economy. Reserves of suitable aggregates are finite and extraction must take place where the materials are found.

Mineral extraction constitutes the largest developments that occur in the County and can have significant environmental impacts. Issues such as noise, dust, groundwater and traffic all need to be considered.



What do you think?

- How can renewable energy be maximised throughout the County?
 - What is your opinion on windfarms?
- Are you aware of any negative impacts associated with renewable energy (including windfarms)?
 - Are you in favour of:
 - Wind Energy
 - Hydro Power
 - Bioenergy
 - Hydro Power
 - Solar Energy
 - Ocean
 - Geothermal & Heat Pumps
 - Where is the best location for forestry?
 - How can the amenity value of forestry be maximised?
- What are the main issues arising from the operation of quarries?
 - Should there be a buffer zone around quarries?