



Transformation for Sustainability: SLI Strategy 2023-2025

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Waterford Sustainable Living Initiative (SLI),
19 Chestnut Close,
Viewmount,
Waterford

A NEW WAY

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Strategic Plan written by Stephanie Kirwan, 2023

Forward by CEO – Jen Harris



Welcome to SLÍ's second strategy document. SLÍ, short for the Waterford Sustainable Living Initiative, is also the Irish word for 'the Way' and this is a really important part of our story. Having just incorporated in 2019, SLÍ has experienced a tremendous amount of learning and a tremendous amount of growth.

We are very excited to start this new phase in our development. As we have since our inception, we base all of our work within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals focusing our work primarily on responsible consumption and sustainable living and how they work toward combatting the changes stemming from climate change. We believe strongly in the power of our community and the power of our young people and engage with these target groups in order to have a positive impact on the world around us, both local and global.



Jen Harris
CEO & Founder
SLÍ Waterford

Forward by Chair of the Board of Directors – John Hawkes



SLÍ has been in existence since 2019 and has been growing steadily. Our main area of operation is sustainable living (as our name implies) through engagement with youth and communities and a focus on cutting down waste, reuse, recycling and other initiatives.

We are very grateful to our sponsors and various funding sources. SLÍ has grown significantly in recent years, and this is largely down to our Co-ordinator, Jen Harris. We continue to grow and we welcome feedback and engagement from all areas of society.

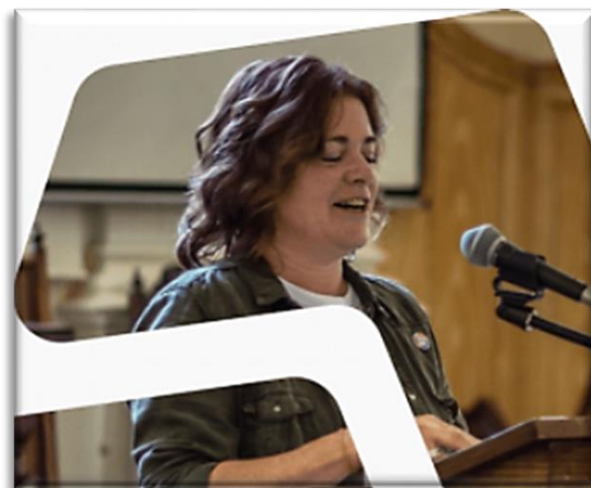


John Hawkes
Chair of the Board of Directors
SLÍ Waterford

SLÍ's Story of Change

SLÍ as an organisation supporting change.

SLÍ was founded as The Waterford Sustainable Living Initiative (SLI). 'SLÍ' is also the Irish word for 'way' which represents our hopes for a new way of doing things. SLÍ provides a range of education and awareness raising programmes to schools, youth groups and community organisations to raise the profile of sustainability both locally and further afield. All of our work takes place within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SLÍ works on a variety of issues that fall under this umbrella including the problems of single-use plastic, waste, child and forced labour, ethical fashion, water, transportation, etc.



SLÍ's work can be looked at through 2 lenses:

- Learning – educational programmes in schools, youth groups and within our communities.
- Action – enabling our students and participants to apply their learning in practical ways to help them live more sustainably.

SLÍ's Programme Delivery

SLÍ offers a broad range of interactive activities which encourage and support transformative change in communities. SLÍ predominately works with young people within both formal and non-formal systems and uses creative methodologies such as street art to ensure all learners can engage and contribute.

Core activity delivery:

SLÍ is a dynamic organisation that delivers a range of educational programmes that are transformative in nature, experiential in design and respond to the changing needs of the target groups. To date, SLÍ has been involved in the delivery of a number of educational programmes such as facilitating Global Citizenship courses with young people, creating educational resources on sustainability and development related topics for various groups and hosting Community Based Awareness Events.

It is envisioned that SLÍ will continue to deliver such courses/workshops, be engaged in innovative educational initiatives such as campaigns and continue to align its practice to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Workshops

SLÍ offers workshops and awareness raising activities for schools, youth, community groups and corporations. SLÍ designs their workshops based on the needs of the groups that are engaged and their specified requirements. SLÍ's flagship formal sector programme, Waterford Global Schools, supports Transition Year Students in a peer teaching and learning programme that has been running for over 20 years.



Campaigns and Action

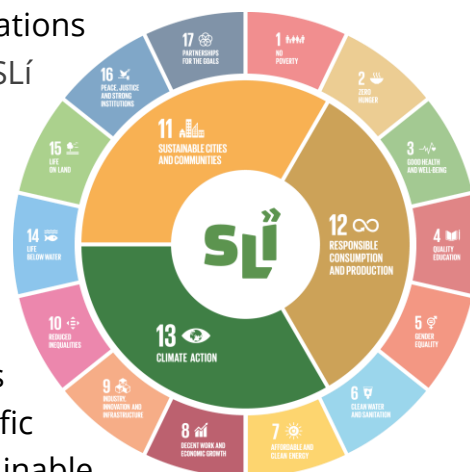


SLÍ believes that action is essential at both a local and global level. SLÍ works with a number of campaigns and action groups both in Waterford and across Ireland to support individuals to act. SLÍ holds interactive workshops with schools and community groups to tackle climate change. SLÍ grew out of the successful Plastic Free Waterford Campaign which continues today.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SLÍ recognises the importance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for everyone. SLÍ believes that every person can take meaningful action and make changes to their lives in order to have a real impact.

The Sustainable Development Goals are made up of 17 unique goals with 169 corresponding targets that need to be achieved by 2030. SLÍ believes that all goals are essential and interconnected, however the specific focus of the organisation are Goals 11, 12 and 13: Sustainable Living, Responsible Consumption and Production and Climate Action.



Organisational Structure

SLÍ is a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status. SLÍ is operated by a 4-person Board of Directors with varied backgrounds and expertise.

Board of Directors

« **John Hawkes, Chair.** John has been our Chair since 2021 and brings a wealth of administrative, management and development experience. John is the former Coordinator of the Waterford PPN and spent many years working in a number of African and Asian countries on development issues.



« **Francis Power.** Francis Power is the newest member joining our team in the summer of 2022. Francis has twenty plus years of experience in retail, sales, finance, and logistics. Currently, Francis is a Special Needs Assistant at Scoil Lorcáin in Waterford City.



« **Liz Riches.** Liz has worked in community and local development for over 30 years in Dublin and Waterford. She jointly established a social enterprise in Ballybeg, Waterford and has maintained an interest in the potential for community based social enterprises to build local led and collaborative responses to social, economic, cultural and environmental issues. She is currently employed by Waterford Area Partnership as the Education, Employment & Enterprise Manager.



« **Deborah Sheeran.** Deborah has been involved with SLÍ since the beginning and served as our first Chair way back in 2019. Deborah is a primary school teacher with development experience having founded and run the charity Lámhá Suas which has worked in Uganda on girls' education and health care.



Organisational beliefs

SLÍ is an organisation that values people and the planet. The culture of SLÍ is to provide a space for connectivity and collaboration amongst staff, members,

learners, and partners. SLI strives to offer meaningful learning experiences for learners, particularly youth, to increase awareness and action for sustainable development.

SLI's Vision, Mission, and Values



Vision

Our vision is of a world with a sustainable future.



Mission

Our mission is to educate and inspire action on sustainability.



Purpose

Our purpose is to creatively contribute to the environmental sustainability of our communities through the delivery of global citizenship education and awareness raising activities.

Values

- » Sustainability: To live in harmony with nature.
- » Solidarity: To show solidarity to those most affected by global injustice.
- » Participation: To ensure everyone can equally participate in societal change.
- » Justice: To live in a more just, equal world.
- » Inclusion: To ensure we are inclusive of all individuals without any form of discrimination.



Strategic Goal 1 - Ensure the long-term viability of SLÍ through strengthened organisational capacity.



SLÍ recognises the importance of self-reflection and the need to continually build our own strengths as an organisation whilst identifying streams of funding which contribute to achieving the priorities detailed in this strategy including climate action, sustainable development, and social justice. This strategic goal will not only focus on financial sustainability but the need to adequately support the organisation in terms of governance, best practice, and human resources.

Results

1.1 Funding: SLÍ has a diversified funding stream from various national and international programmes that increase both the restricted and unrestricted funds available to the organisation for programme delivery.

1.2 Governance: SLÍ continues to be 'fully compliant' with regards various codes of conduct and organisational policies are updated to reflect current circumstances.

1.3 Human Resources: SLÍ staff and relevant members continue to be motivated to engage in the work of the organisation and feel connected to the wider efforts of the team.

Actions

1.1 Funding: SLÍ will continue to prioritise a certain amount of time annually to review current funding streams and identify new potential funds which could ensure sustainability of our activities. SLÍ will develop an annual funding plan to reflect the priorities of this Strategic Plan.

1.2 Governance: SLÍ will ensure compliance with the IDEA Code of Good Practice for Development Education, the Dóchas Code of Good Practice on Images and Messages and retain full compliance with the Charities Governance Code. In addition, SLÍ will ensure that the Governance Structures and policies within the organisation are updated regularly and reflect clarity with regards to decision

making protocols. SLÍ will include the updating and completion of policies and codes in annual workplans.

1.3 Human Resources: SLÍ will continue to ensure that all staff and members of the team within various capacities (i.e.. Youth Action Climate Council, Board of Management, core team) are protected in terms of employee rights and have the opportunity to engage in Continued Professional Development (CPD).

Strategic Goal 2 - Build the capacity of young people to take meaningful action on sustainable development.

Despite increased awareness of the impending climate crisis, we are simply not doing enough to save ourselves and our home. We need to embrace a new way of life: one that uses less, that demands less and sees that this approach is something that we all need to embrace in order for us all to thrive. SLÍ recognises the important contributions that young people in particular can make towards advancing sustainable development. This strategic goal will focus on how SLÍ will attempt to build the capacity of young people to support them to take informed action that affects positive change.



Results

2.1 Awareness: Young people attending trainings/events held by SLÍ will have an increased awareness of climate change, sustainability and global citizenship topics including the Sustainable Development Goals.

2.3 Engagement: Young people, particularly in Waterford, are actively engaged in the trainings/events held by SLÍ and eager to re-engage in future activities.

2.3 Action: The young people who attended trainings/events held by SLÍ have the capacity, confidence, and support to take some form of meaningful action to address climate change, sustainable living, and environmental degradation.

Actions

2.1 Awareness: SLÍ will continue to raise awareness of development issues (including the Sustainable Development Goals) amongst young people in local, national, and international communities. SLÍ will ensure that awareness of such issues is done in a meaningful way that uses a global citizenship approach of understanding the root causes of inequality, climate change and other development issues.

2.2 Engagement: SLÍ will offer meaningful opportunities for young people to engage in global citizenship training and events that results in meaningful personal transformation for those involved. The opportunities will use various methods of engagement to ensure all interests are catered for.

2.3 Action: SLÍ will support young people to act on the issues discussed in the events, trainings and projects they take part in. SLÍ will ensure the actions proposed by young people follow the principles outlined in the IDEA Code of Good Practice for Development Education.

Strategic Goal 3 – Creatively engage communities in Waterford and beyond as active global citizens.

SLÍ is committed to using creative approaches to engage citizens in global topics. SLÍ recognises the importance of using participatory methodologies that engage



various learning styles, using spaces that are conducive to learning and finding new means of raising awareness of core issues underpinning the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This strategic goal will focus on how SLÍ will engage communities in creative projects that result in an increased

awareness and understanding of issues explored in the SDGs.

Results

3.1 Engagement: Communities are engaged in creative methodologies that centre on the Sustainable Development Goals and transformative change.

3.2 Awareness: Communities have an increased awareness and understanding of development issues, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals.

3.3 Connection: Individuals who participate in SLÍ's creative projects become part of a community of individuals passionate about social change.

Actions

3.1 Engagement: SLÍ will offer a range of community initiatives that foster a sense of creativity and expression. These opportunities will be open to members of the public and will centre of topics such as the Sustainable Development Goals. Initiatives hosted by SLÍ within this strategic goal will use a variety of engagement methodologies that ensure all learning styles feel comfortable to participate.

3.2 Awareness: SLÍ will ensure that opportunities facilitated via this strategic goal will raise awareness of development issues in a manner that will have a lasting impact on the participants engaged. SLÍ will ensure that raising awareness of such issues is done in a meaningful way that uses a global citizenship approach to information sharing.

3.3 Connection: SLI will utilise the opportunities which exist through such meaningful engagement to create new communities of individuals dedicated to social action and creating meaningful change in their communities. Various opportunities will be facilitated that ensures participants can feel connected to both the topics being discussed and the communities they are part of.

SLI STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2025

Our mission is to educate and inspire action on sustainability.

The Waterford Sustainable Living Initiative (SLI) grew out of an organisational commitment to the 2030 Agenda. SLI is a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status and is governed by a Board of Directors. SLI provides a range of education and awareness raising programmes to the formal and nonformal education sectors as well as working within community settings.

Our **vision** is of a world with a sustainable future.



Strategic Goal 1: Ensure the long-term viability of SLI through strengthened organisational capacity.



Strategic Goal 2: Build the capacity of young people to take meaningful action on sustainable development.



Strategic Goal 3: Creatively engage communities in Waterford and beyond as active global citizens.

Our Values

» Sustainability

» Justice

» Inclusion

» Solidarity

» Participation



Full Strategic Plan: www.sliwaterford.ie





Stay Connected With Us



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OUR FUNDERS

Irish Aid

Irish Aid's WorldWise

Global Schools

Communicating Europe

Initiative of the

Department of Foreign

Affairs and Trade

Development Education

and Awareness Raising

(DEAR)

Waterford City and County

Council

Registered Company No.: 645677 Registered Charity No.: 20204811