

Cork Environmental Forum

Position Paper 2 - Integrated and Sustainable Landscape Management



In accordance with the European Landscape Convention, signed and ratified by Ireland March 2002 and which came into force on the 1st March 2004, and its own seminal document 'The Landscape of Cork Report', Cork Environmental Forum advocates the formulation and implementation of landscape policy, strategy and practice at national, regional and local level in order to ensure that our landscape, urban, rural and remote, natural and man-made, is of the highest quality possible for present and future generations of the City and County of Cork.

In the context of Cork City and County we call for the following:
(Leading player and partners in italics)

1. The establishment of a comprehensive landscape database, documenting the natural and man-made landscape of Cork in all its immense diversity; the process shall include the identification, classification and assessment of the landscape, tempered with a recognition of the intrinsic dynamic of change in the landscape and the importance of the community values attached to landscape. Landscape change shall be illustrated by means of a 'Photographic Observatory of the Landscape of Cork'.

(Cork Local Authorities/Community/ Doehlg/LAI/CEF)

2. The database shall reside in an accessible community reference resource entitled the Cork Environmental Record Centre to be established within the existing Public Library System to contain and make accessible all information relating to our total environment with particular reference to landscape quality. The data bank of landscape information shall be converted into 'An Atlas of the Landscape of the City and County of Cork' for ease of public access and comprehension.

(Cork Local Authorities/Heritage Council /Community/LAI/CEF)

3. Problems in present and past landscape management shall be identified, recognised, prioritised and addressed in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

(Cork Local Authorities / Doehlg/ SWRA/Community/LAI/CEF)

4. Objectives shall be set for landscape quality in Cork at all levels of the community and administration, guided where available by national, regional and local landscape policy and embodying the key principles of sustainability, now globally accepted. In particular these objectives shall address the need for immediate action to conserve all existing natural habitats and built heritage, as the level of remaining habitats and coherent examples of our built heritage is now critical. The objectives shall be balanced with recognition of the need to creatively engage in landscape change in a manner that will add to our future natural and man-made heritage.

(Cork Local Authorities /Community/LAI/CEF)

5. Appropriate landscape management strategies derived from the landscape policies shall be formulated, together with the requisite instruments, processes and procedures in order to implement sustainable landscape management. All to be assessed/reviewed on an ongoing basis for effectiveness.

(Doehlg/ SWRA/Cork Local Authorities /Community/LAI/CEF)

6. The planning process shall be comprehensively and independently assessed to ensure that it achieves the objectives set out for landscape quality, and an ongoing process of re-assessment shall be put in place.
(Cork Local Authorities /Doehlg/EU/Coe/Third Level Colleges/Community/LAI/CEF)





7. All activities impacting negatively on landscape quality not at present subject to the planning process shall be identified, and appropriate measures for addressing them developed and implemented.
(Cork Local Authorities /Doehlg/EU/Coe /SWRA/Third Level Colleges /Community/LAI/CEF)

8. All existing and future legislation shall be landscape-proofed and the administrative process at local, regional, national and European level examined and assessed to ensure that it impacts on total landscape quality in a positive, proactive manner, best achieved through the implementation of integrated broad-based landscape policy.
(Doehlg /EU/Coe/SWRA/Cork Local Authorities /Community/LAI/CEF)





9. A comprehensive broad-based educational programme in landscape management shall be developed to increase the level of knowledge and awareness of landscape quality across the community, addressing all relevant professions, skilled operatives and administrative levels as well as the education sector.
(Doehlg /EU/Cork Local Authorities/Heritage Council /Community/LAI/CEF)

10. The community at large shall be informed, equipped and empowered to become active partners in an ongoing consultation, participation, implementation process, in order to develop a widespread proactive intrinsic awareness of quality within our natural and man-made landscape and its close relationship with the quality of our daily lives.
(Doehlg /EU/Coe/Cork Local Authorities/Heritage Council /Education Sector /Fas /Community /LAI /CEF)

11. The Cork Environmental Forum welcomes the progress made since the first position paper was published in June 2001 as follows:

-  March 2002 - Ireland signed and ratified the European Landscape Convention.
-  Cork County Council has initiated a Landscape Character Assessment Process.
-  Bord Pleanala decisions are increasingly taking account of Landscape Impacts.
-  March 2004 - European Landscape Convention came into force.

12. The Cork Environmental Forum now calls for these first steps to be followed by the implementation of an Action Timetable as follows:

-  1st January 2005 - Cork City and County Landscape Data Base to be officially inaugurated.
(Cork Local Authorities /LAI /CEF)
-  17th June 2005 - National, Regional and Local Landscape Policies to be launched at the Council of Europe Landscape Convention Workshop in Cork City, European City of Culture 2005
(Doehlg /SWRA/Cork Local Authorities).
-  'Photographic Observatory of the Landscape of Cork' and 'An Atlas of the Landscape of the City and County of Cork' to officially commence. *(Cork Local Authorities/CEF/Heritage Council)*
-  31st December 2005 - Draft National, Regional and Cork City and County Landscape Policies to be published *(Doehlg/SWRA/Cork Local Authorities)*

- 🌱 Cork Environmental Record Centre to be opened simultaneously in the City and County *Library* (*Cork Local Authorities/CEF*)
- 🌱 1st September 2007 - 'An Atlas of the Landscape of the City and County of Cork' to be published.

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Explanatory Notes

Doehlg: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

EU: European Union

Coe: Council of Europe

SWRA: South West Regional Authority

Cork Local Authorities: Cork City and County Councils

Community: the Population of Cork City and County

LAI: Landscape Alliance Ireland

CEF: Cork Environmental Forum

Reference Landscape Web Sites

Council of Europe: www.coe.int

Landscape Alliance Ireland: www.landscape-forum-ireland.com

The Heritage Council: www.heritagecouncil.ie

Other useful web sites are listed on the CEF Appendix 1 - Useful References

To foster, promote & implement sustainable development within the Cork region