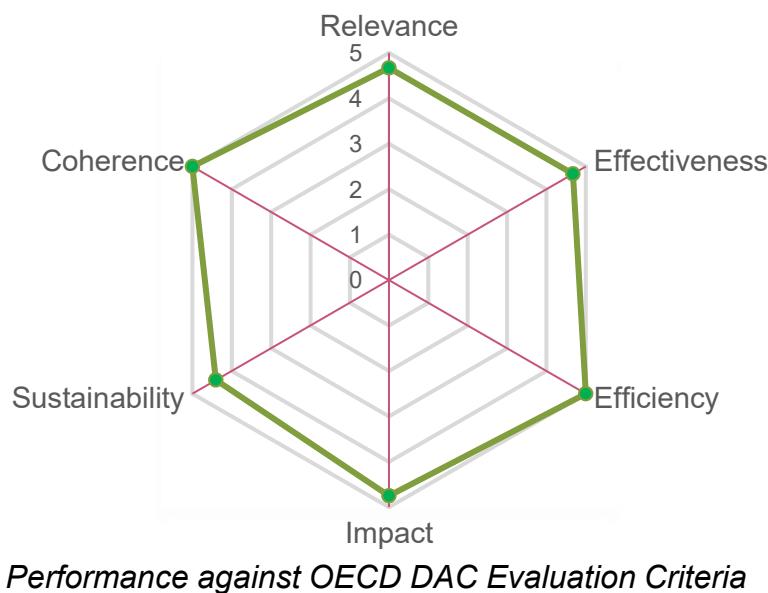




The Change We Need: How FCCJ is reframing Community Work as Feminist Climate Action

During 2024 and 2025, The Change We Need consultancy conducted an independent evaluation of the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice (FCCJ) Project using a feminist community work approach. They talked to community workers, representatives of marginalised women, women's organisations, climate justice organisations, sector experts and academia, as well as project staff and management to listen to what they had to say about the project. They also read project documents, resources produced by the project and relevant policy documents to understand the project and how it performed.



Applying international best practice, the Change We Need found FCCJ to be performing well –

- ✓ the project was much needed and the activities were in high demand by community workers;
- ✓ activities were delivered to a high standard and adapted to user needs;
- ✓ people, time and financial resources were used efficiently;
- ✓ clear positive impacts can already be seen;
- ✓ the impacts have the potential to be replicated and sustained into the future; and
- ✓ the project is working well within its context, complementing Community Work Ireland, the National Women's Council and a variety of organisations campaigning for women, social justice and climate justice.

“I am now more equipped to take action in my own community, with an understanding that local efforts can ripple into global change”

FCJ Cert Course Graduate

Feminist Communities for Climate Justice is filling a gap and meeting needs

The Feminist Communities for Climate Justice (FCCJ) project was established in response to a need identified by Community Work Ireland and the National Women's Council. This need was to address the climate justice issues disproportionately affecting marginalised women across the island of Ireland—a challenge consistently highlighted in research and policy over several decades.

From the outset, FCCJ defined clear objectives and developed activities to support both community workers and marginalised women, adapting its approach as the project evolved. It was designed to strengthen content, resources, and capacity for feminist, socially inclusive, community development-centred climate action.

While the project's primary focus is on women, marginalised communities, and the community workers who support them, it also engages a wider network of stakeholders. These include policymakers, local organisations, students, and members of the general public.

“I came with a concern for the environment and left with knowledge and skills to take action”

The FCCJ project results exceeded all expectations

With the right formula of people, partners and funding, the project was implemented effectively, adapting to fill new needs as they arose. Stakeholders consistently praised its quality and impact.

The “Community Work in a Changing Ireland: Feminist Climate Justice” course, delivered in partnership with Maynooth University, was particularly appreciated. Participants valued the opportunity to bring diverse perspectives together, particularly through in-person engagement. The course strengthened understanding of the intersectionality of feminism, community work, and climate justice, while also equipping participants with the language and tools to take action.

The baseline research on feminist climate justice in Ireland addressed a major knowledge gap, and the resource toolkits -focused on building climate justice communities and developing campaigning strategies – are comprehensive, practical, and accessible.

One of the project's most significant outcomes has been the FCCJ network, which now has more than 150 members across the island of Ireland. The network has fostered connections, collaboration, and knowledge sharing between organisations, while also enabling and amplifying individual and collective advocacy efforts.



A lot was achieved in a short timeframe

FCCJ has been highly efficient, delivering within budget, adapting to circumstances, making up for time lost early in the project, and maximising outcomes with the resources available. The project management team works well together and communicated well, and the team has leveraged the resources of both Community Work Ireland and the National Women's Council.

Staff capacity was managed effectively, even when unexpected advocacy and additional activities arose. Demands for staff time for unexpected advocacy and other activities were managed well and the collaboration with Maynooth University to deliver the certificate course was reported to be dynamic and productive.

“They said they would do All-Island and they really did!”

Real and lasting impacts can already be seen

Cert course graduates have already implemented climate action projects, with one initiative extending as far as Nigeria! Feminist climate justice now has a place at the table in national climate discussions and policy making processes. The project's submissions and resources have been shared with thousands of community workers and women's rights advocates, equipping them with the knowledge, language, and confidence to take meaningful action.

FCCJ's purpose was to support communities in addressing climate change by providing resources, tools, approaches and know-how. The project has empowered community workers and organisations to better support marginalised women through: connections and cross-pollination of knowledge among environmental, social justice, and women's organisations; cross-border learning and knowledge-sharing; building the capacity of organisations, individuals, and academia; influencing public policy; and reframing issues such as women's safety on public transport, care work, and energy poverty as feminist climate justice concerns.

Looking ahead, FCCJ's work is expected to contribute to improved conditions for marginalised women, due to better policies arising from the advocacy work.

"The work has got out!"

FCCJ brings people, topics and organisations together

FCCJ is serving as a connector between organisations, communities, and individuals. The partnership between Community Work Ireland and the National Women's Council has proven highly effective, enabling the project to leverage both organisations' networks while simultaneously strengthening their respective campaigns and mainstreaming them through climate justice, feminist and community development topics.

Beyond this partnership, FCCJ responds to policy needs and fills a gap within CCAP projects and across Irish NGOs working in feminism, community work, and climate justice spaces.

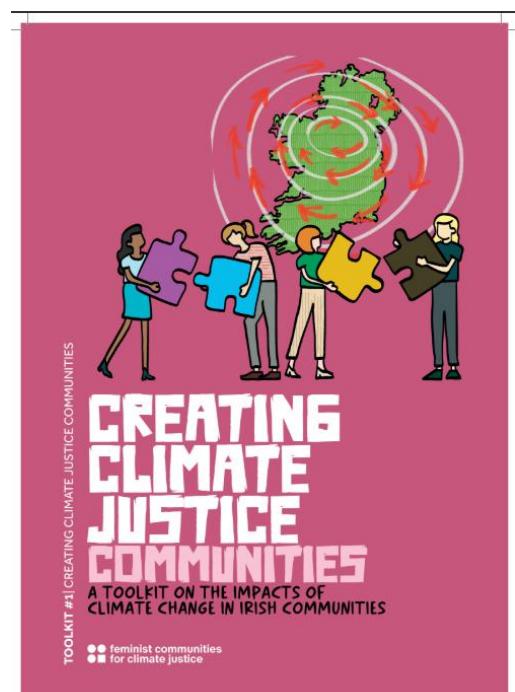
FCCJ brings organisations and community workers together, supporting them towards a collective goal of achieving climate justice and supporting marginalised women, thereby achieving coherence across the Feminism- Community Work- Climate Justice nexus.

The project is leaving a legacy

The education, knowledge, and connections provided by FCCJ will continue to shape feminist climate justice for years to come. Many elements of the project are already leaving being replicated: aspects of FCCJ have been adopted by other organisations, integrated into the work of the National Women's Council and Community Work Ireland, and embedded in academic courses at Maynooth University. The research, toolkits, and policy submissions produced by the project will remain valuable resources for learning, advocacy, and community action.

Looking ahead, FCCJ has the potential to be embedded in the work of many organisations and become self-sustaining. The Feminist Communities for Climate Justice project must continue to ensure and empower this work for now, with the network as a crucial lever, enabling continued advocacy, collaboration, and fundraising to secure the sustainability of the work.

Despite a changing global political context, the policy environment for climate action remains favourable, and while future funding is unclear, the project and its partners are ready to seek out new and diversified funding sources to continue empowering community workers to act for feminist climate justice on the Island of Ireland.



How can Feminist Communities for Climate Justice continue to help women and marginalised communities?

The project has done well, recommendations to build on this success include:

- *Keep up the good work* – Build on the success that has been achieved. Continue to build capacity and reach more community workers with resources and support and expand network activities towards grass roots organisations. Continue collaborating with others for advocacy and cross-pollination of knowledge, and advocate for feminist climate justice in national policy.
- *Impact* should be the North Star of all future activities. Design future phases for impact and focus on activities that will have the greatest impact on Community Workers and marginalised women. Think about how activities can be replicated at home and abroad to maximise impact e.g., education and advocacy, and keep communications at the centre of FCCJ.
- Design future activities to *meet differing needs*, including the needs of the most marginalised, and thinking about phraseology, communicating in Irish and other languages spoken and in suitable formats, also reaching Island communities. Consider also the different needs of organisations in Northern Ireland and the Republic.
- *Futureproof* the project by addressing research gaps, planning for funding gaps and diversifying funding in the long term.
- *Embed the work* of Feminist Communities for Climate Justice in the National Women's Council and Community Work Ireland and in organisations and networks at the grass roots level, and run a pilot project to mainstream feminist climate justice in one organisation/ network and learn from the experience.
- *Emphasise the feminist angle* of feminist climate justice, by implementing concrete activities to improve understanding and use of the feminist aspect of climate justice.
- *Leverage Climate Justice Expertise* within the network and engage champions to add weight to advocacy arguments.
- Connect with international counterparts to develop and promote feminist climate justice.

“This project should be stitched into an awful lot of the work of other organisations”

