

## **Glan Thoraí – If not you, who?**

### **Lead Authority**

#### **Donegal County Council**

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### **Collaborating Organisation**

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### **Programme Summary**

Tory Island is located 11 km off the north coast of Donegal and has a population of 65 households and 8 businesses. With no Roll on/Roll off ferry service to the island waste management has historically been problematic. Businesses and householders traditionally disposed of their wastes on the island and waste prevention or recycling was not considered.

In 2005 Comharchumann Thoraí Teo, in conjunction with Donegal County Council (DCC), introduced a trial domestic waste collection service to the island. All islanders have access to this collection service and the majority of homes and businesses now avail of it. With seasonal fluctuations in population, waste is transported to the mainland by passenger ferry once a week during winter and twice a week during the summer. Since the introduction of the service the community at large has greatly benefited. The islanders have taken ownership of the waste collection system and it is now well established.

Having started with zero waste management on the island we now intend to capitalise on the waste awareness which exists and develop a home-grown model of waste prevention and recycling. Assistance and training of Council staff in waste minimisation and prevention techniques is to be undertaken.

A reduction / elimination in the unnecessary volume of waste that is currently being generated.

The main aims of the project will be to

- To improve the quality of life for the residents and visitors to the Island.
- To maintain the heritage, environment and character or distinctiveness of the Island and develop the area for future generations
- To encourage waste elimination and minimisation on Tory Island through an education and awareness campaign.

- To encourage environmental sustainability on the Island.
- To create awareness of waste generation and the subsequent impact on the environment.
- To work with the Tory Island Co-Op to achieve the project aims.
- To encourage the inhabitants of Tory Island to take ownership of the project.
- To involve all of the community in caring for and the sustainability of Tory.

The main objectives will be:

- To obtain baseline data on the waste quantity and composition of waste arising on the island.
- To obtain baseline views and opinions of the Islanders on environmental topics such as renewable energy, waste management, local ecology and ecosystems and water conservation.
- To devise and implement an environmental sustainability plan sympathetic to the local environment.
- To encourage the inhabitants of Tory Island to take ownership of the project.
- To measure and identify the successes and possible limitations of the project.
- To generate information and guidance for dissemination to other local authorities.
- To establish a Tidy Towns committee and enter Tidy Towns.
- To generate reports and case studies.