COMMON KNOWLEDGE

"BETWEEN US, WE HAVE THE WILL, SKILLS AND COMMUNITY TO CREATE A FUTURE THAT IS SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE AND INCLUSIVE FOR ALL - OUR ROLE AT COMMON KNOWLEDGE IS TO BRING THEM TOGETHER."

CONNECT ON LINKEDIN

- FIONN KIDNEY, CEO

The Problem

Not long ago, we had the ability to meet many of our own needs, both at home and in our communities.

Today, in the face of multiple intersecting crises, it's more important than ever that we regain that sense of agency.

There's no shortage of good intentions to take action on climate, biodiversity, housing and inequality. But each demands action, and none can be met without practical capability, climate literacy and mutual support.

Everyday skills once relied on by previous generations - like building, making, growing and mending - offer a simple, practical way to take action. Yet, in an increasingly globalised world, practicing and sharing these skills has largely fallen out of our culture.

People pay for what they once did themselves, and communities lose the habits of working together that have always made Irish communities sustainable and resilient.

Our Solution

We empower people and communities with the confidence, skills and community to adopt a sustainable life

Founded in 2021, Common Knowledge is a non-profit social enterprise, set on 50 acres in rural Clare purchased through €600,000 in community-sourced loans, and renovated by 200+ volunteers in a month-long meitheal.

We support people and communities with practical skills: building, making, mending, growing, working with the land, to develop climate literacy, and take action together.

We work across four pillars:

- **Sharing Skills,** hands-on courses in building, making, mending and growing.
- **Building Community**, projects that build community capacity to take action together.
- **Ecorestoration**, where we steward our 50 acres back to ecological health.
- **Sharing Space**, hosting people seeking an inspiring location to visit or do their work, creating additional income for our mission.

The Role of Philanthropy

Philanthropy unlocks the work that earned income alone cannot reach

We run a hybrid model: c.70% earned income, c.30% raised income. Earned income proves the demand. Grants and philanthropy lets us go further: subsidised access, long-term investment, and ambitious, accessible programmes.

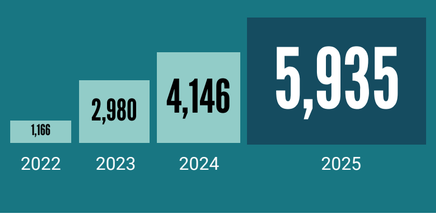
Our National Philanthropy Pilot project in partnership with the Department DRCDG and SSE Airtricity is one example.

Over two years, the project aims to:

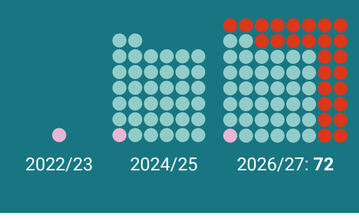
- **Support people** — 5,000 programme participants over 2 years.
- **Support communities** — 16 communities supported to lead their own projects.
- **Decarbonise** — Reduce verified, lifetime CO_2 emissions by 50 t/Co2 annually.
- **Restore land** — Active ecological and biodiversity restoration on our 50 acres.
- **Enhance our long term sustainability** — Improved financial resilience and a thriving, sustainable organisation.

OUTPUTS & OUTCOMES

PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS



COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED



PARTICIPANT CONFIDENCE LEVEL

117%

BASED ON PRE AND POST-ACTIVITY EVALUATION, PARTICIPANTS SHOW A CONSISTENT DOUBLING OF THEIR CONFIDENCE TO TAKE ACTION AT HOME AND IN COMMUNITIES

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

ECORESTORATION VOLUNTEER
FIELD GOOD FRIDAYS

"I started out thinking I was there to help with the Field Good Friday community eco-restoration days. **It ended up helping me more."**

COMMUNITY LEADER TAKING PART IN **MEITHEAL MAKERS**

"The Meitheal Makers residency has given us new tools, energy and confidence. **It will have a huge impact on our work**"

COURSE PARTICIPANT
BUILD SCHOOL

"Build School gave me **the skills and confidence to build my own home affordably and sustainably -** and to help a friend build hers."

RECOGNITION IN 2025

NATIONAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS WINNER - COMMUNITY FACILITIES, ARTS AND HERITAGE, AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

WINNER BEST SOCIAL IMPACT - CLARE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

VISIT BY **UACHTARÁN NA HÉIREANN,** CATHERINE CONNOLLY, DECEMBER 2025

SCAN HERE TO REQUEST OUR 2025 IMPACT REPORT →

WITH THANKS TO OUR 2026 SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta
Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

RETHINK IRELAND

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Community Foundation Ireland

arts council / comhairle ealaíon — funding festivals

COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

sse Airtricity

BROADLAKE
REALISING POTENTIAL

patagonia

Bank of Ireland

Clare Local Development Company
Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil an Chláir

pobal
government supporting communities

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland 2040

Ár dTodhchaí Tuaithe
Our Rural Future

Arna chomhchistiú ag an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the European Union