COMMUNITY CLIMATE JUSTICE EDUCATION AT BOHEMIANS

AONTAS ADULT EDUCATION SUMMIT 2026

WEDNESDAY, 21ST OCTOBER



ABOUT
BOHEMIANS


BBC THREE
MOTD

WHO ARE WE?



FAN-OWNED SINCE 1890



VALUES-LED



COMMUNITY-FOCUSED



NOT-FOR-PROFIT

OUR COMMUNITY

MEMBERS AND FANS



2,500+

YOUTH TEAMS



50

ELITE FOOTBALL

LEAGUE OF IRELAND

UEFA

UNION OF EUROPEAN CLUBS

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

des kelly INTERIORS

THE RECORD HUB

DHL

LOCAL RESIDENTS



COMMUNITY PROJECTS





OUR WORK ON
COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING


CLIMATE
ACTION


CLIMATE
ACTION
POVERTY
INEQUALITY
HOUSING CRISIS
COST OF LIVING CRISIS



THIS IS THE ROOT OF CLIMATE INJUSTICE

THOSE WITH THE LEAST RESPONSIBILITY ARE OFTEN THE WORST IMPACTED, AND ARE UNABLE TO ACCESSS SOLUTIONS THAT WOULD MAKE THEIR LIVES BETTER.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING



- **KEEPS MORE MONEY, JOBS, AND ASSETS IN THE COMMUNITY** INSTEAD OF LEAKING OUT TO DISTANT SHAREHOLDERS.
- USES **HOSPITALS, COLLEGES, COUNCILS AND BIG EMPLOYERS** TO BUY FROM, HIRE FROM, AND INVEST IN THE LOCAL AREA.
- SUPPORTS **CO-OPS, SOCIAL ENTERPRISES, AND COMMUNITY-OWNED ASSETS** SO PEOPLE HAVE A REAL STAKE AND VOICE.
- **DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL** HAS ADOPTED A COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING STRATEGY.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING CAN TACKLE CLIMATE INJUSTICE

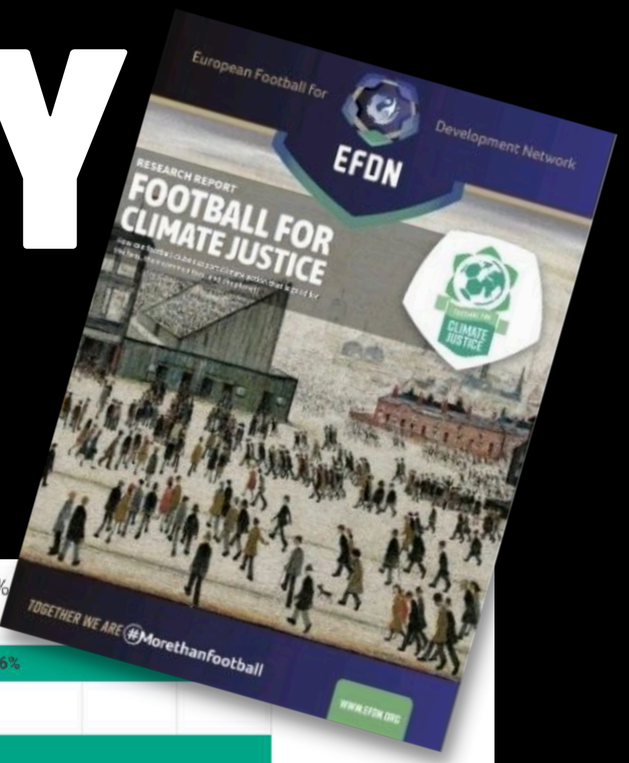
CLIMATE ACTION + COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

= CLIMATE JUSTICE BY ECONOMIC DESIGN



WE WANT TO MAKE CLIMATE ACTION ACCESSIBLE TO OUR COMMUNITY, USING COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

AFFORDABILITY & INCLUSION



43% of Bohs members & fans have difficulty paying their electricity bill some or most of the time.



United Nations
Climate Change

WHAT CLIMATE ACTIONS ARE FANS ABLE TO ACCESS?

RESPONSE						
Already have it	23%	39%	14%	14%	40%	19%
Intend to get it	21%	30%	20%	26%	27%	32%
Aware of it but can't afford it	43%	24%	43%	54%	26%	44%
Unaware of it	14%	8%	23%	5%	7%	6%


WE ARE PART OF A
GLOBAL MOVEMENT AND
WE ARE LEARNING FROM
THAT MOVEMENT



MONDRAGON

92 COOPERATIVES

70,000 PEOPLE EMPLOYED

€11 BN IN REVENUE

DELEGATION OF 20

TWO-DAY DEEP DIVE GUIDED BY OUR HOSTS

A BONA FIDE MODEL OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND DEMOCRATIC OWNERSHIP, BUT NOT PERFECT

CLEVELAND

6 COOPERATIVES

500+ PEOPLE EMPLOYED

TACKLING POVERTY

DELEGATION OF 3

VISITS TO EVERGREEN AND OTHER KEY INSTITUTIONS

SOCIAL INNOVATIONS AND TEETHING CHALLENGES TO BE LEARNED FROM



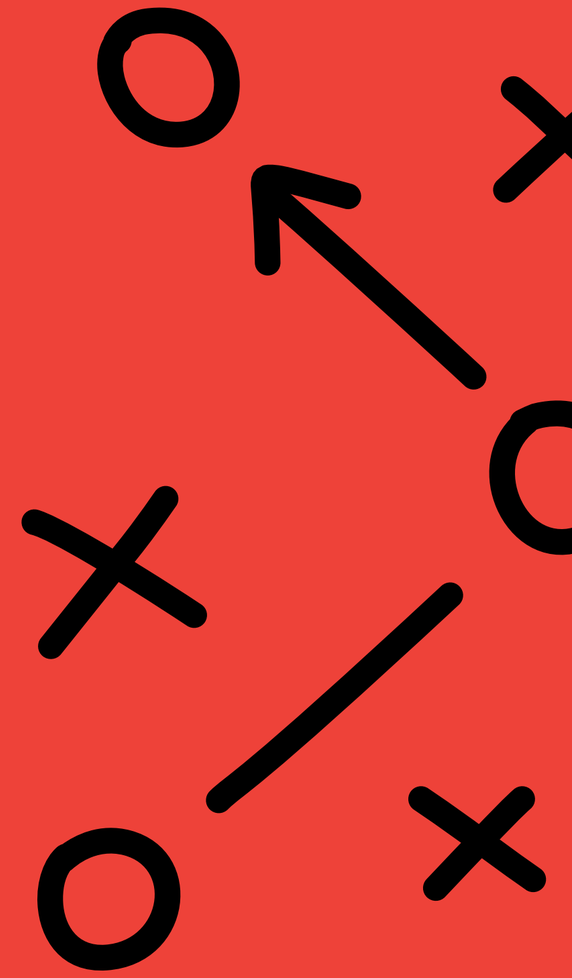


About Our Strategy

A start up plan

...to build the backbone of a democratic local economy:

- a backbone institution
- education & participation
- enterprise
- growth and replication infrastructure





Social Investment

The model requires €22.1 million in external investment to catalyse the ecosystem, build the shared platform, and unlock early enterprise development.

Self Sufficiency

Dependence on external support falls steadily over time and reaches zero by 2045, as the ecosystem develops the strength to sustain itself.

Local Prosperity

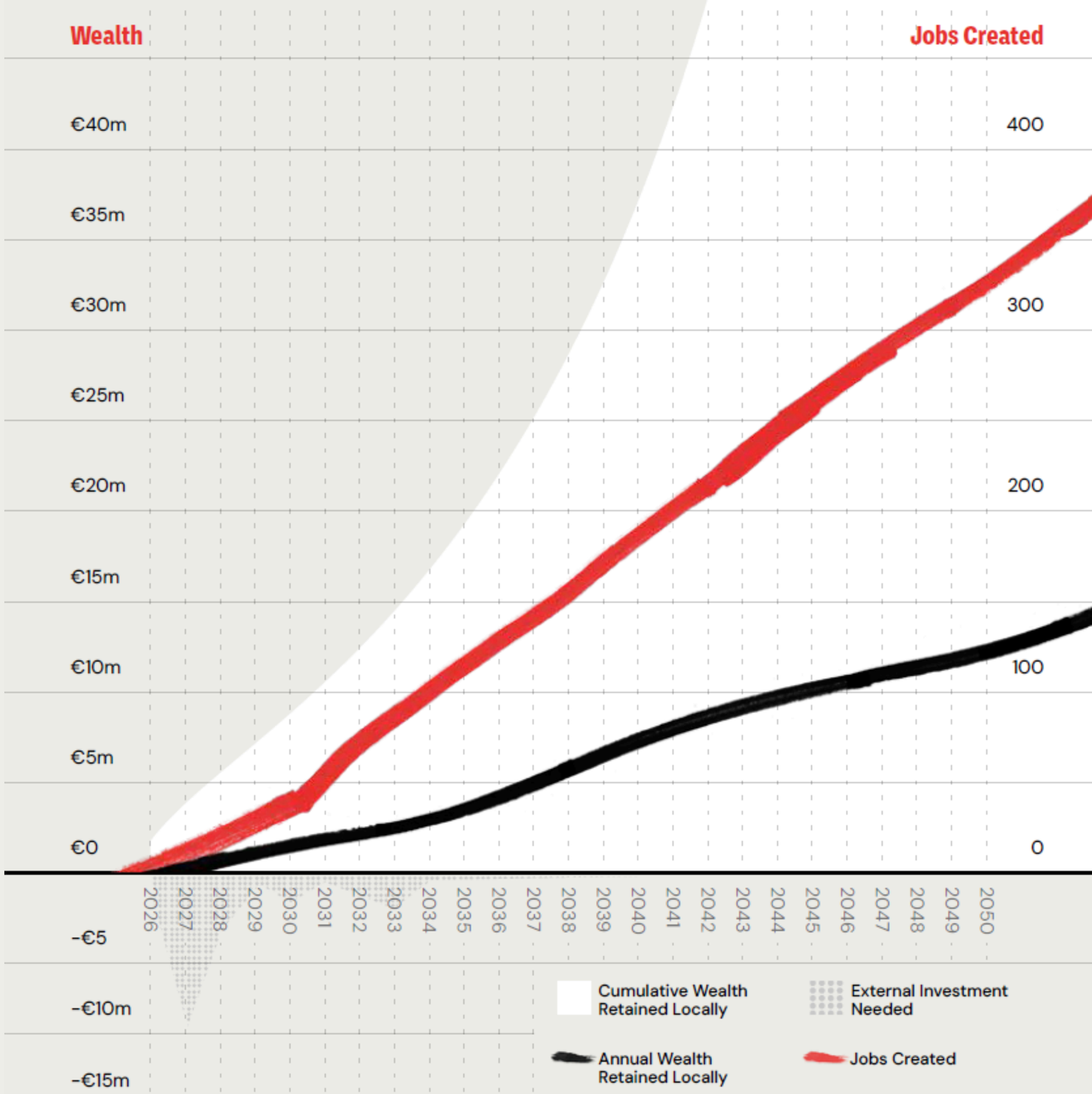
The model points to nearly 300 jobs by 2050, with almost 80% of workers receiving dividends in the optimal range.

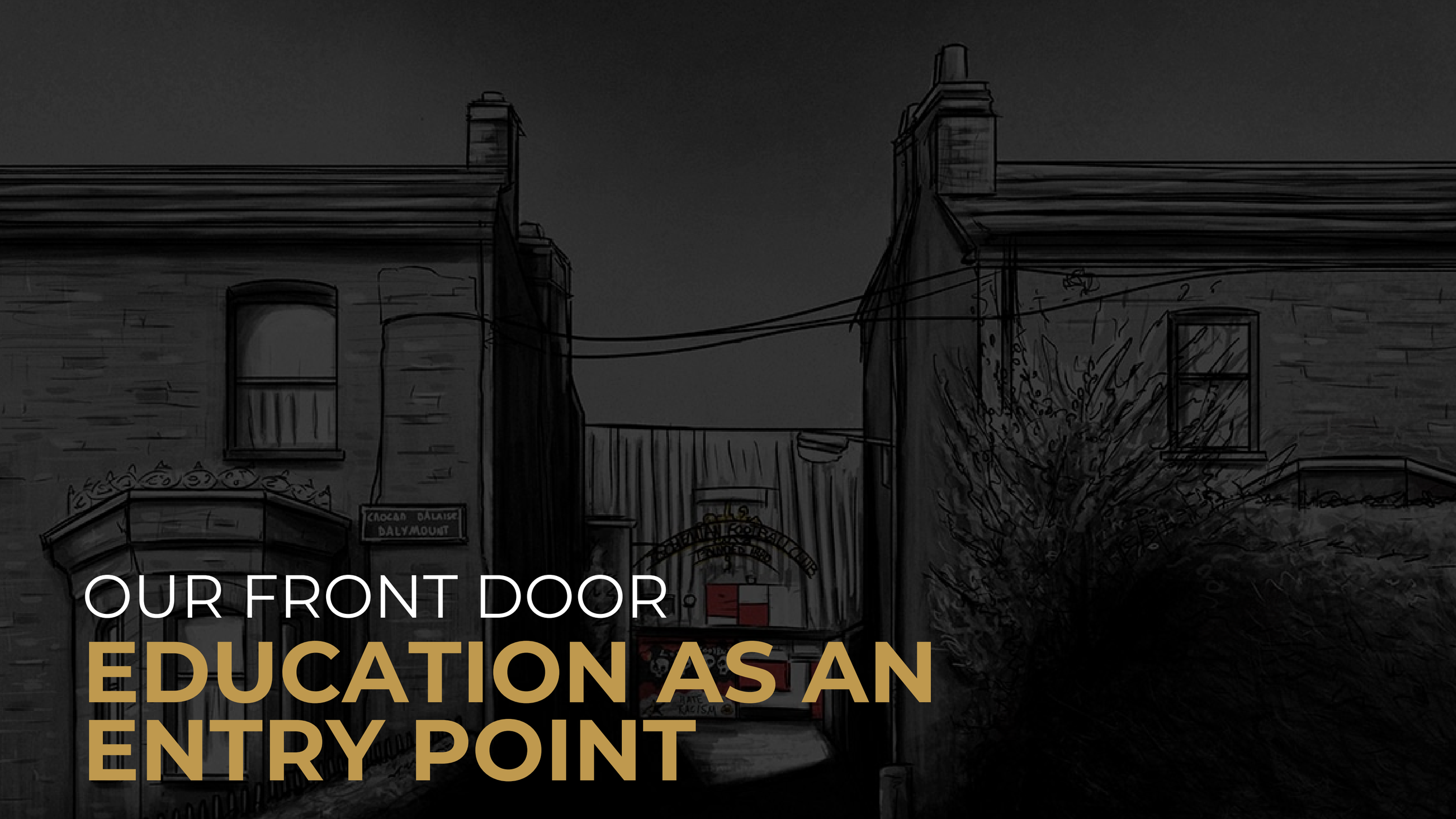
Fast Payback

Within 10 years, the model is retaining more than €8 million each year in the local economy.

Wealth Building

By 2050, the model points to around €250 million in additional wealth retained in the local economy. That is more than 11 times the original investment.





OUR FRONT DOOR

EDUCATION AS AN ENTRY POINT



WHY COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMES FIRST

- A COOPERATIVE NEEDS MEMBERS WHO THINK CRITICALLY AND GOVERN TOGETHER. EDUCATION BUILDS THAT CAPACITY.
- THE CURRICULIUM IS ROOTED IN LIVED EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY NEED HELPS TO SET THE AGENDA. FREIRE CALLED IT PRAXIS.
- WE HOPE THAT DIALOGUE IN THE CLASSROOM BECOMES MEMBERSHIP, ENTERPRISE AND CAMPAIGNING ACROSS THE COOPERATIVES.

A THREE STRAND APPROACH



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

SPARK SKILLS

- FREE 8-WEEK COMMUNITY EDUCATION & GREEN SKILLS PROGRAMME.
- WHOLE OF COMMUNITY APPROACH.
- BIKE MECHANICS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, OFF-GRID SOLAR.
- FOCUSES ON DEVELOPING COMMUNITY COHESION & BUILDING CONFIDENCE.







PROGRESS TO DATE

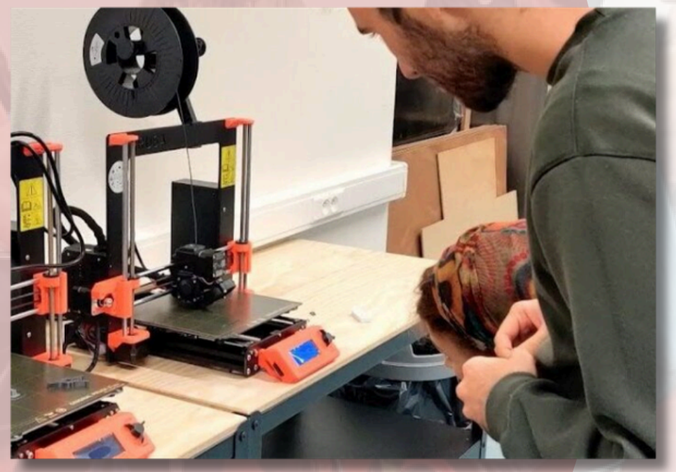
- OVER 300 GRADUATES TO DATE
- ACTION RESEARCH FOUND LEARNERS CONFIDENCE & WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN THEIR COMMUNITY IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY
- OVER 100 HAVE STAYED CONNECTED TO THE PROJECT
- ENABLED BY:

City of Dublin
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Education and Training Board

SOLAS
learning works



EXPANDING SPARK SKILLS



3D PRINTING FOR REPAIR

GREEN BUILDING SKILLS





WIND ENERGY

- DEVELOPING A GREEN-TRADE PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME TO SIT ALONGSIDE OUR FOOTBALL ACADEMY.
- 99% OF FOOTBALL ACADEMY GRADUATES DO NOT BECOME FULL TIME PROFESSIONAL.
- EDUCATION OFFERS A MEANS TO AVOID SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CLIFF EDGE



VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

DEMOCRACY SCHOOL

- FREE SHORT COURSES EXPLORING CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN POLITICAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- EDUCATION OFFERS A MEANS TO AVOID SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CLIFF EDGE



ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS

1. What resonates with us about community wealth building and how does it connect with the work we are already doing?

2. What would it take for more people in our communities to see a democratic economy as their cause?

3. Drawing on your experiences in community education. What are the gaps, challenges, and opportunities in our current approach and offering? What would you strengthen or do differently?

4. Besides being a point of entry, how can community education help people to see building a democratic economy as their cause, and actively shape it?



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