

CODEMA

Zero Together Strategy Creation Jewell Facilitation



Summary

Jewell Facilitation helped Codema to create a plan to accelerate Dublin's transition to low carbon, and to build consensus on how to achieve their aim of effectively and fairly moving Dublin away from fossil fuels. Over the course of 8 workshops, a team of experts in the sector known as the Transition Team, with the expert facilitation of Helene Jewell, came together to develop a shared vision, to define barriers to achieving this and generate ideas and plans to overcome those barriers.

Challenge

Codema, Dublin's energy agency works to accelerate the transition in Dublin to low carbon. It is heading up the Zero Together initiative, aimed at bringing together multiple stakeholders to create a vision and strategy to move Dublin towards net zero.

The stakeholders, experts in the field of climate change, formed the Transition Team. Their task was first to work together to agree and define their shared purpose and vision, to identify barriers to the vision and collaboratively create solutions to enable and support this important transition.

For this team to work together Codema needed the help of an experienced facilitator. The mix of complex topic of climate mitigation required an objective, unbiased facilitator with the flexibility to ensure a range of diverse perspectives was heard, while at the same time encouraging equal contribution from the whole team. It was also crucial to ensure that there was space for those big-picture ideas but that they were focused and collated into tangible, implementable outputs.

After researching the best way to develop their programme, the team at Codema came across Helene. Thanks to her previous facilitation in the climate space and with multi stakeholder groups, and her thorough yet flexible proposal, Codema felt Helene was the perfect fit to guide them through the process.



Getting things in place

Before proposing a series of workshop in September 2021, Helene took the time to understand the aims of Codema, the nature of any challenges – such as the fact that many members of the team hadn't actually worked together before– and hosted an exploratory session to fully understand the project and the desired outcomes.



Using this knowledge, and her expertise, Helene was able to suggest the best workshop structures for the team, and was able to plan and facilitate the series. Initially the workshops were online due to the pandemic, but as time progressed the final few workshops were able to take place in person.

Facilitation in action

Overall, Helene facilitated 8 workshops, both in person and online, bringing together the Transition Team (a group of around 20-24 people) with diverse backgrounds, perspectives and opinions to build consensus and create a high level plan. Helene used her 15 Years of experience to expertly facilitate deliberation within the group, allowing for those differing perspectives to be brought to the fore while ensuring that the team stayed on track and aligned to the objectives of the sessions. She worked hard to keep the team engaged online, and to enable the transition of the workshops from the virtual space to face to face in person.

Meetings before and after the workshops with the Codema team, ensured that there was a constant monitoring and feedback cycle allowing workshops in the planning phase to be informed by the outputs of completed workshops. Helene brought creativity and flexibility to the work, suggesting workshop processes, activities, tools and techniques that she could use to enable the team to meet their goals.

The team found Helene's contribution to be invaluable and commented on her professionalism and skill at building consensus within Transitions Team.



Outcomes and Benefits

Everyone at Codema felt that one of the key benefits to engaging Helene Jewell to facilitate the series of workshops was that not only were the main objectives reached, but new relationships and connections were built within the team. By supporting the implementation of the objectives alongside allowing the team to foster and develop new and existing relationships, Codema was able to make big progress in a relatively short space of time.

What you should know about working with Jewell Facilitation

Helene's involvement in the process of creating the workshops and then in facilitating them ensured that a wonderful rapport and consensus was built among a very divergent team. So while creating the desired outcomes of the workshop was key, the Transition Team, and Codema as a whole, benefited from those new relationships and connections. There are often several additional 'side benefits' to using a facilitator like Helene – not least, her expertise in allowing for differing perspectives to be brought to the fore while ensuring the team stayed on track and utilised their valuable time effectively.



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