

STRIVE Projects Listing

Sustainable Development & Environmental Socio-Economics

February 2009

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For more information, please contact research@epa.ie

Participatory Governance: A Best Practice Model for Effective and Inclusive Decision-Making in Wind Energy Development in Ireland

Lead Organisation

National University of Ireland, Galway

Principal Investigator

Brid Walsh

Supervisor

Dr Michael O'Conneide

Project Type

Doctoral Scholarship

Funded under:

STRIVE Doctoral Scholarship Scheme 2007

Project Description

The rapid expansion of the Irish economy has placed unprecedented pressure on the environment and the regulatory institutional framework. Public support is paramount to the successful integration of environmental policy with the development agenda. This research project will investigate public participation in environmental decision-making in Ireland. Drawing extensively on Dutch water management governance practices and Danish wind energy development mechanisms, the project will formulate a best practice model of participatory governance for local development, with specific reference to the exploitation of wind energy resources, in Ireland. It seeks to enhance the efficacy of planning processes through the creation of mechanisms that support and facilitate strong participatory democracy.

Sustainable food Systems: An evaluation of the potato supply chain in Ireland using life cycle assessment.

Lead Organisation

University College Cork

Principal Investigator

Alice D'Arcy

Supervisor

Dr Colin Sage

Project Type

Doctoral Scholarship

Funded under:

STRIVE Doctoral Scholarship Scheme 2007

Project Description

Through analysis of environmental, social and economic data this research seeks to understand the contemporary impact of the potato supply chain in Ireland and the prospects for moving towards a more sustainable food system. The research methods, based on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) techniques, will identify and quantify selected environmental, social and economic indicators associated with the potato sector. This will involve detailed surveys of the Grower, Processor, Distributor and Retailer stages. Analysis of the LCA outcome will highlight areas of significant impact for each indicator, and inform remedial measures towards increasing the sustainability of the potato sector.

An objective measure of value in biological entities for sustainable management and planning

Lead Organisation

Queen's University Belfast

Principal Investigator

Olga Lyashevskaya

Supervisor

Dr Keith Farnsworth

Project Type

Doctoral Scholarship

Funded under:

STRIVE Doctoral Scholarship Scheme 2007

Project Description

We seek a more substantial definition of value than those based on consumer theory. Our working hypothesis is that total information content is the quantifiable feature that best predicts the intrinsic value of biological entities and their capacity to provide services. We will construct measures of information intensity with data derived from publications to illustrate the principle. Information intensity may be translated into financial value using conventional economic methods. The outcome will be an objective measure of value based on scientific information applicable to any biological entity from a cell to an ecosystem. This is a theoretical and statistical study.

The EU Emission Trading Scheme and the Greening of Technology

Lead Organisation

University College Dublin

Principal Investigator

Barry Anderson

Supervisor

Dr Corrado Di Maria

Project Type

Doctoral Scholarship

Funded under:

STRIVE Doctoral Scholarship Scheme 2007

Project Description

This project undertakes the analysis of the effects of the EU Emission Trading Scheme on the technology available to firms across the European Union, with special emphasis on Irish firms. Through the use of an array of econometric techniques and a variety of different types of data, this research proposes to investigate all phases of the process of technological change: invention, innovation, and diffusion. Identifying the key elasticities and the fundamental drivers of the process of technical change, this project provides an invaluable contribution to inform the current debate on the review of the EU ETS and the post-Kyoto policy alternatives. The outputs will also provide a sense as to how and to what extent Irish firms in the trading sector are embracing innovation and diffusion, and the extent to which this enhances or otherwise their competitive position.

Innovation, agricultural diversification and environmental sustainability

Lead Organisation

University College Dublin

Principal Investigator

Terence McFadden

Supervisor

Prof Alun Jones

Project Type

Doctoral Scholarship

Funded under:

STRIVE Doctoral Scholarship Scheme 2007

Project Description

The development of on-farm complementary activities is a necessity for the long-term viability and survival of EU farm businesses. Central to this survival process is the generation and mobilisation of innovative ideas by farm households. Such innovation offers tremendous micro-, meso- and macro-economic benefits to local rural economies and, concurrently, great potential to establish farming practices and production methods which reflect the increasing societal concern for conservation, landscape protection and quality food production. However, little rigorous examination has taken place of the nature and operation of linkages between farm households and rural institutions in the emergence and sustenance of innovative on-farm diversification. This forms the scientific rationale for this doctoral scholarship.

CONSENSUS: A cross-border household analysis of CONsumption, ENvironment and SUSTainability in Ireland

Lead Organisation

Trinity College Dublin

Principal Investigator

Prof Anna Davies

Project Type

Large Scale

Funded Under

STRIVE Sustainable Development and Environmental Socio Economics Call 2007

Project Description

This research examines four key areas of household consumption that currently impact negatively on the environment and inhibit our ability, both in Northern Ireland and the Republic, to achieve sustainable development: transport, energy, water and food. A set of integrated work packages will address four themes identified in the 2007 STRIVE call: how consumption can be measured and evaluated (Theme 1), how sustainable behaviours and incentives are being developed and implemented (Theme 2), identifying links between consumption, health and well being (Theme 3) and finally how matters of household consumption are being governed through institutional practice and participation (Theme 5).

Evaluation of Policies to Enhance Environmental Sustainability in Future Planning of Irish Settlements

Lead Organisation

University of Limerick

Principal Investigator

Prof Richard Moles / Dr Bernadette O'Regan

Project Type

Medium Scale

Funded Under

STRIVE Sustainable Development and Environmental Socio Economics Call 2007

Project Description

This medium-scale project led by University of Limerick will identify and evaluate policies most likely to enhance urban environmental sustainability for selected settlement types so that future development of Irish settlements may be placed on a more sustainable pathway. Four Workpackages address Theme 4: planning and sustainability, Theme 1: measuring and evaluation; and Theme 3: health and well-being. It builds on existing research in urban sustainability and exploits existing databases. This research will provide policy-makers with an evidence-based guide to enhancing sustainability in settlements showing relatively poor sustainability, and ensuring that as these settlements grow they maximise opportunities to enhance sustainability.

ACHIEVing Sustainable Tourism Management – Putting the DIT-ACHIEV Model into Practice

Lead Organisation

Dublin Institute of Technology

Principal Investigator

Dr Sheila Flanagan / Dr Kevin Griffin

Project Type

Medium Scale

Funded Under

STRIVE Sustainable Development and Environmental Socio Economics Call 2007

Project Description

Tourism is unique - it is composed of a broad range of interlinked activities that make up the industry, ranging from accommodation to travel and from activity to ancillary and support structures. Because of this, it has a complex matrix of potential impacts on various aspects of the environment. Building on the team's previous EPA funded project this research will operationalise the DIT-ACHIEV model, testing it in a real situation, and thereby moving towards establishing it as the national benchmark tool for the mitigation of impacts and management of tourism in a sustainable manner.

Using participatory governance to adapt to climate change

Lead Organisation

University College Cork

Principal Investigator

Dr Valerie Cummins

Project Type

Medium Scale

Funded Under

STRIVE Sustainable Development and Environmental Socio Economics Call 2007

Project Description

The aim of this research is to study the feasibility of applying adaptive co- management as a model for participatory governance in planning for climate change adaptation. The proposed approach will accommodate decision making where uncertainties and vulnerabilities are high, whilst taking existing democratic structures into consideration. The study will focus on the coastal zone, where climate change can cause extreme impacts (e.g. coastal erosion, flooding and sea level rise) and accordingly give rise to environmental conflict amongst stakeholders. Findings will be disseminated to the wider environmental decision making community.