

STEAM POWERED ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

BLOCKS 4 CHANGE WORKSHOP



**BLOIC DON ATRÚ
BLOCKS 4 CHANGE**



Facilitator Summary

Workshop Title: *Inspired for Change: What We Can Do Next for a Greener Future?*

Date / Duration: *02.12.2025, 11am–2.30pm*

Location: *Tralee, Co. Kerry*

Facilitator: *Sarah Flaherty*

Participants: *10*

Group Category: *Registered Charity Organisation*

Group Description:

Empowering adults with intellectual disabilities to take active roles in environmental sustainability, creative enterprise, and community contribution, this initiative supports participants to make meaningful contributions to society while building confidence, self-worth, and personal pride. The project promotes self-advocacy and inclusive participation while exploring models of long-term and sustainable employment. In doing so, it fosters economic and social participation and reinforces a strong sense of identity, achievement, and belonging.

1. Workshop Purpose & Key Aims

This LEGO-based workshop built on the strong environmental and community ethos already present within the group. Participants explored what climate action means in their everyday lives and imagined what a greener future for their community could look like. Through creative building, guided storytelling, and accessible STEAM activities, the group reflected on existing positive actions, generated new environmentally focused ideas, and co-created potential next steps.

A central focus was recognising each person's strengths—what they enjoy doing, the skills they bring, and the activities that give them a sense of pride and achievement—and how these can contribute to future sustainability goals.

2. Build Observations

INDIVIDUAL BUILDS

“Build something that shows an environmental achievement you are proud of.”

Participants worked individually to create models that reflected environmental actions they have been involved in and felt a sense of pride in contributing to. The build provided space for personal reflection, storytelling, and recognition of individual strengths and achievements. Several consistent themes emerged across the individual models.

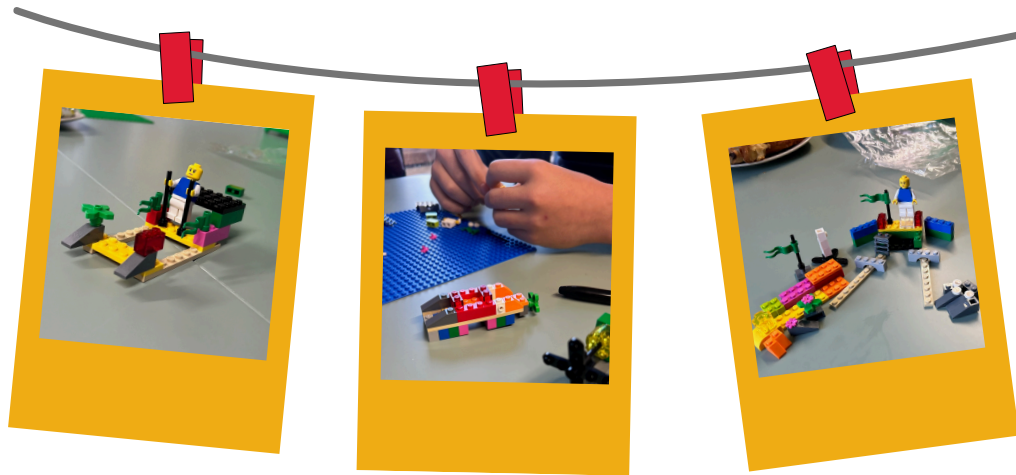
A strong interest in alternative energy was evident, particularly in relation to electric vehicles. Participants spoke about their involvement in, or awareness of, cleaner transport solutions and the importance of reducing environmental impact through everyday choices.

Horticulture featured prominently, with builds representing planting, gardening, and harvesting activities. These models reflected a deep connection to nature, enjoyment of outdoor work, and pride in growing and caring for plants and food produce.

Participants also highlighted their contribution to social enterprise and community wellbeing, expressing pride in being part of initiatives that support others while contributing positively to society.

Artistic expression emerged as another key theme. Several builds incorporated art, particularly the creation of artwork from recycled or waste materials. Upcycling was discussed not only as an environmental action but also as a creative outlet that supports wellbeing, identity, and self-expression.

Overall, the individual builds revealed a group with strong environmental awareness, creativity, and practical experience. The models illustrated both the diversity of activities participants engage in and the genuine sense of pride and achievement associated with their contributions to nature, sustainability, and community life.



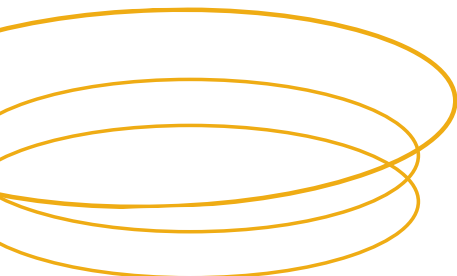
GROUP BUILDS

“Build what we could do next to help the environment”

Participants worked in small groups to combine ideas and develop shared models that represented future environmental ambitions for the facility and wider community. The builds moved thinking from individual achievements toward collective action and scaled impact. Across all group models, several consistent themes emerged:

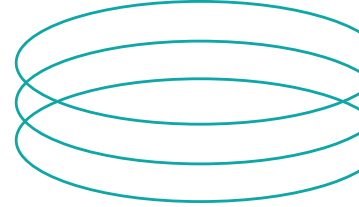
- There was a strong focus on renewable energy, with solar and wind solutions featuring in every build. Participants explored how the facility could generate its own clean energy and reduce reliance on non-renewable sources, signalling a clear ambition for long-term environmental sustainability.
- Sustainable transport also featured prominently. Groups discussed the importance of moving people, materials, and goods in greener ways, reflecting awareness of transport-related emissions and the need for more environmentally responsible systems.
- A further theme centred on community connection. Groups expressed a desire to increase the number of people visiting and engaging with the service, alongside creating more opportunities for integration with the wider community.
- Environmental concerns around plastic waste were also evident. Participants demonstrated strong interest in recycling and upcycling, exploring creative ways to repurpose materials and reduce environmental impact.

Overall, the group builds reflected a shared commitment to environmental responsibility, future planning, and strengthening connections between sustainability initiatives and community engagement.



SHARED BUILD

“Create one big, shared Green Future Map.”



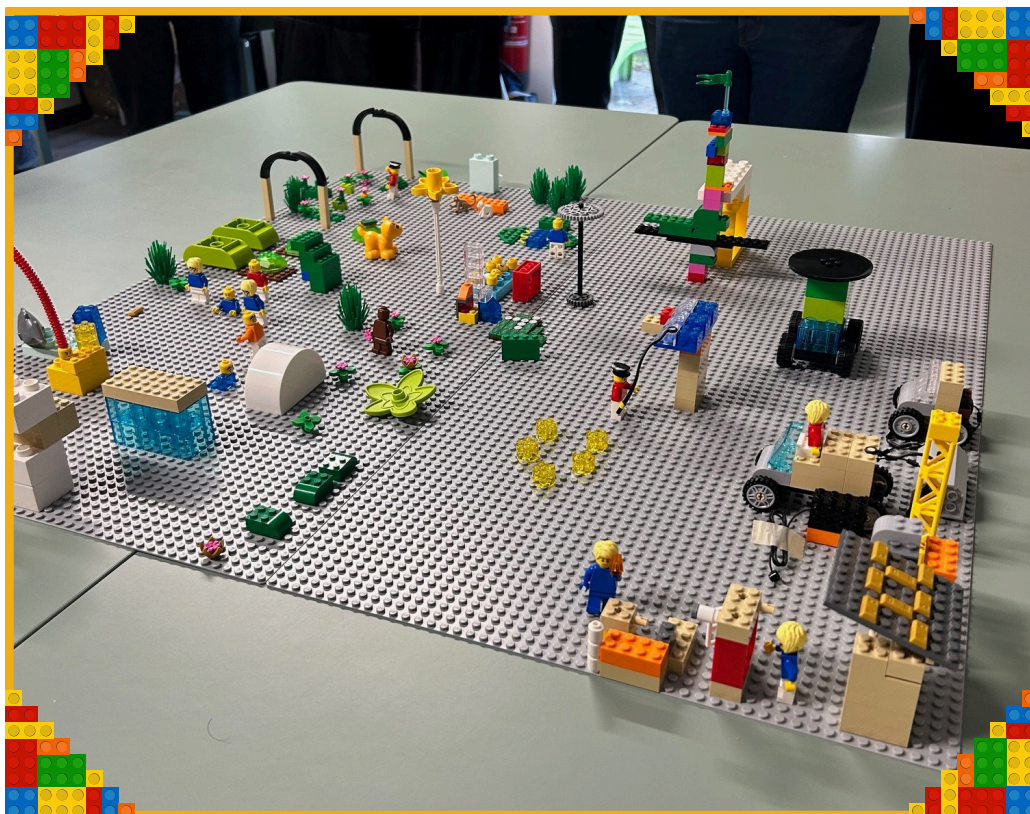
Participants came together to combine their ideas into one collective model, mapping out a shared vision for a greener, more sustainable future. The build brought together themes from the individual and group stages, moving from ideas into a unified picture of ambition and possibility.

The shared model placed people at the heart of the vision, highlighting the importance of connection, collaboration, and active participation in shaping the future. This central positioning reinforced the belief that environmental progress is driven by people, relationships, and shared ownership. Building outward from this core, participants developed several key ideas:

- There was strong interest in establishing a permanent social enterprise, creating meaningful roles and opportunities for economic participation while supporting long-term sustainability.
- Participants also envisioned art exhibitions that would showcase creativity, celebrate identity, and highlight upcycling and environmental awareness through artistic expression.
- Horticulture featured prominently, with ambitions to expand planting and growing activities. The land was described as something that could “grow alongside us”—a metaphor capturing the idea of mutual development, where both people and place flourish through care and investment.

The group further emphasised the importance of sustainable land use, recognising its environmental, social, and economic value as a shared community asset.

Overall, the shared build captured a collective vision grounded in creativity, sustainability, inclusion, and community development, bringing together practical ideas and long-term aspirations into one unified “Green Future Map.”



STEAM CONNECTIONS

Participants naturally incorporated STEAM principles throughout the builds:

- Science: renewable energy, nature, ecosystems, food growth
- Technology: EVs, energy systems, tools that support sustainable living
- Engineering: transport design, infrastructure ideas, planning and organisation
- Arts: creativity, upcycling, visual storytelling, future exhibitions
- Maths: resource use, logistics, spatial planning, sequencing and growth

STEAM was embedded across the workshop, demonstrating how participants apply these concepts intuitively in their daily activities.

OUTCOME / PROGRESSION

The group identified three priority themes for future development:

1. Sustainable energy production and expanding alternative energy sources
2. Increasing the number of people accessing and engaging with services
3. Creative recycling and reducing plastic waste

Potential next steps included exploring new funding streams, establishing partnerships with external organisations (including education providers and community groups), and identifying opportunities to expand ongoing projects or test new initiatives. Participants expressed strong enthusiasm for progressing these ambitions.

3. GLO Summary (Facilitator Observations)

<p>KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>Participants deepened their understanding of STEAM and recognised how art, nature, technology, and problem-solving already feature in their everyday environment. They demonstrated clear awareness of environmental issues and sustainable practices.</p>	<p>SKILLS</p> <p>The workshop strengthened skills in building, prototyping, and visual communication. Many participants rediscovered LEGO after decades and quickly saw how it can be used to express ideas, systems, and future visions.</p>
<p>ATTITUDES</p> <p>Confidence, openness, and engagement grew significantly throughout the session. Participants shifted from initial uncertainty to enthusiastic participation, offering ideas more freely as the workshop progressed.</p>	<p>ENJOYMENT</p> <p>The session generated high levels of enjoyment and creative energy. One participant spoke about the calming, focused experience of building, describing how their mind felt clear of other distractions. Many expressed pride in what they created and in the ideas developed together.</p>
<p>BEHAVIOUR / PROGRESSION</p> <p>The group concluded with a clear set of shared priorities and a readiness to explore next steps. Their discussions demonstrated constructive thinking about progression, partnerships, and future opportunities.</p>	

