

Shared Ground: Ireland's Civic Listening Pilot

An invitation to re-pattern public decision-making through deep listening, complexity holding, and relational technology

As data centres spread across Ireland's landscapes and energy grids, we are being asked—urgently and imperfectly—to choose how we want to live with digital infrastructure. This is not just a question of land use or electricity supply. It is a question of who we want to become, together, in the face of ecological thresholds, economic pressures, and an aching need for public processes that don't deepen division.

Shared Ground: Ireland's Civic Listening Pilot is a national pilot for a different kind of public conversation. Not one that amplifies oppositional noise, but one that cultivates resonance across difference—through a platform designed not for performance, but for pattern recognition.

Using **Pol.is**, a globally-tested tool for large-scale deliberative democracy, we invite diverse communities—tech workers, farmers, climate campaigners, policymakers, land and water stewards, engineers, youth—to co-shape a shared understanding of Ireland's digital pathway.

Why This? Why Now?

Conventional consultations reward loud voices and binary positions. But Ireland needs something deeper: a space for emotional sobriety, relational maturity, and grounded public wisdom.

By 2030, data centres could consume 30% of our national electricity. The stakes are enormous—and so is the potential for co-created solutions that reflect not just what we want now, but who we owe futures to: generations to come, watersheds, and more-than-human kin.

We believe that the *how* matters as much as the *what*. That process is pedagogy. And that Ireland can lead the world in democratic innovation rooted in place, humility, and care.

Phase One: A Three-Month Demonstration Project (€15,000)

We are seeking modest, catalytic support to launch a pilot process that can evolve into a national infrastructure for deliberation on high-impact public questions.

Phase One Deliverables - What €15,000 will activate:

Technical Infrastructure

- Licensing + setup of Pol.is
- Custom integration with a public-facing website
- Data security, transparency protocols

Relational Design & Facilitation

- Co-designed statement library reflecting diverse perspectives
- Moderation & support for broad public engagement
- Analysis of emergent consensus & polarity patterns

Stakeholder Engagement

- Outreach to climate orgs, industry, communities, state agencies
- Accessible materials & multilingual guides
- Trust-building across divides

Documentation & Learning Loop

- Academic-methodology collaboration
 - Transparent reporting of process & findings
 - Scalable framework for future policy questions
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The Invitation

This isn't just a consultation. **It's a culture shift.**

It's a movement toward a public process that respects nuance, holds tension, and values emergence over performance.

Support us in seeding this pilot—and help grow a deliberative democracy model in Ireland that's not just more efficient, but more *alive*.

Contact:

Roisin Markham, Director of Innovation Services, BDT Consultancy
roisinmarkham@gmail.com +353.861546163

Closing Invocation

"Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine"

"It is in each other's shadow that we live."

Let us deliberate not in isolation, but with each other, with our land, with the water, and with the future we are already shaping.