



Taighde, Idirphlé, Comhairle  
Research, Dialogue, Advice

Considering  
NESC Insights for

# Overview

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1. The National Economic and Social Council
2. NESCC project on Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use
3. Applying Insights to other Areas and a Just Transition Commission



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# The National Economic and Social Council

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## The National Economic and Social Council - at 50

- NESCC's mission is to provide advice to the Taoiseach and the Irish Government on policy issues relating to sustainable economic, social and environmental development.
- The Council includes representatives of business and employers' organisations, trade unions, agricultural and farming organisations, community and voluntary organisations, and environmental organisations; as well as heads of Government departments and independent experts.
- Key elements of deliberation, research, analysis and advice to government on medium to longer term complex strategic issues.
- Since 2012, the National Economic and Social Council (NESCC) has been conducting sustainable development research including projects on wind energy and social acceptance; climate and biodiversity on a shared island; natural capital accounting; just transition and employment vulnerability; just transition in agriculture.
- A Thriving Ireland- In-person Conference on November 23<sup>rd</sup> (Waiting List in Place).

- Not a Blank Page: Building on JT Framework**
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- **Important foundation in place-** Just transition part of climate policy approach in Ireland.
  - **More to do** e.g., embedding framework across climate policy; monitoring actions and scrutiny; institutional focus and process emerging; clarity of focus; defining outcomes; review.
  - **Grounding Just Transition in practice-** Midlands, Agriculture and land use- lessons from this.
  - **Concrete Enquiry-** Context specific focus informs just transition approach- learning and review.



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# Just Transition in Agriculture & Land Use

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# Considering Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use

.....A just transition is based upon a fair process and fair outcomes. Four principles.

Just transition in the agriculture and land use sector should reflect characteristics that make it different to just transition in other sectors, such as energy.

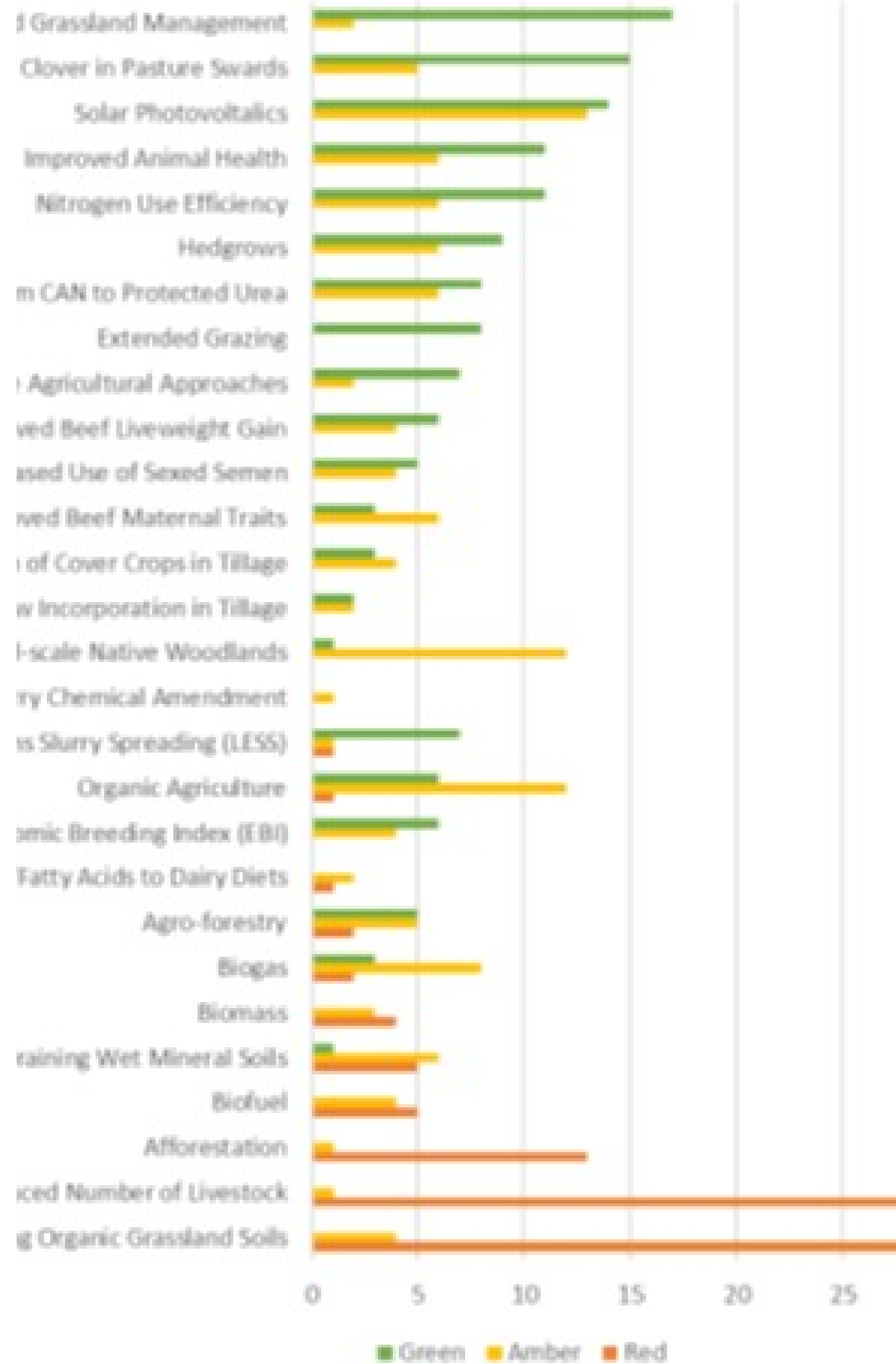
- Complexity of the Agriculture and Land Use system: multiple transitions, uncertainty.
  - Individual farmers and small businesses.
  - Geographically dispersed rather than specific region, regional differences.
  - Cultural and social significance of land and agricultural practices.
- Agriculture can increasingly be part of the solution.
- Not a transition out of agriculture but a transition into making optimal use of land.
- NESCS's integrated framework points to a series of recommendations.

# Tullamore - SF

## 1. Potential Soil and Land Management Measures

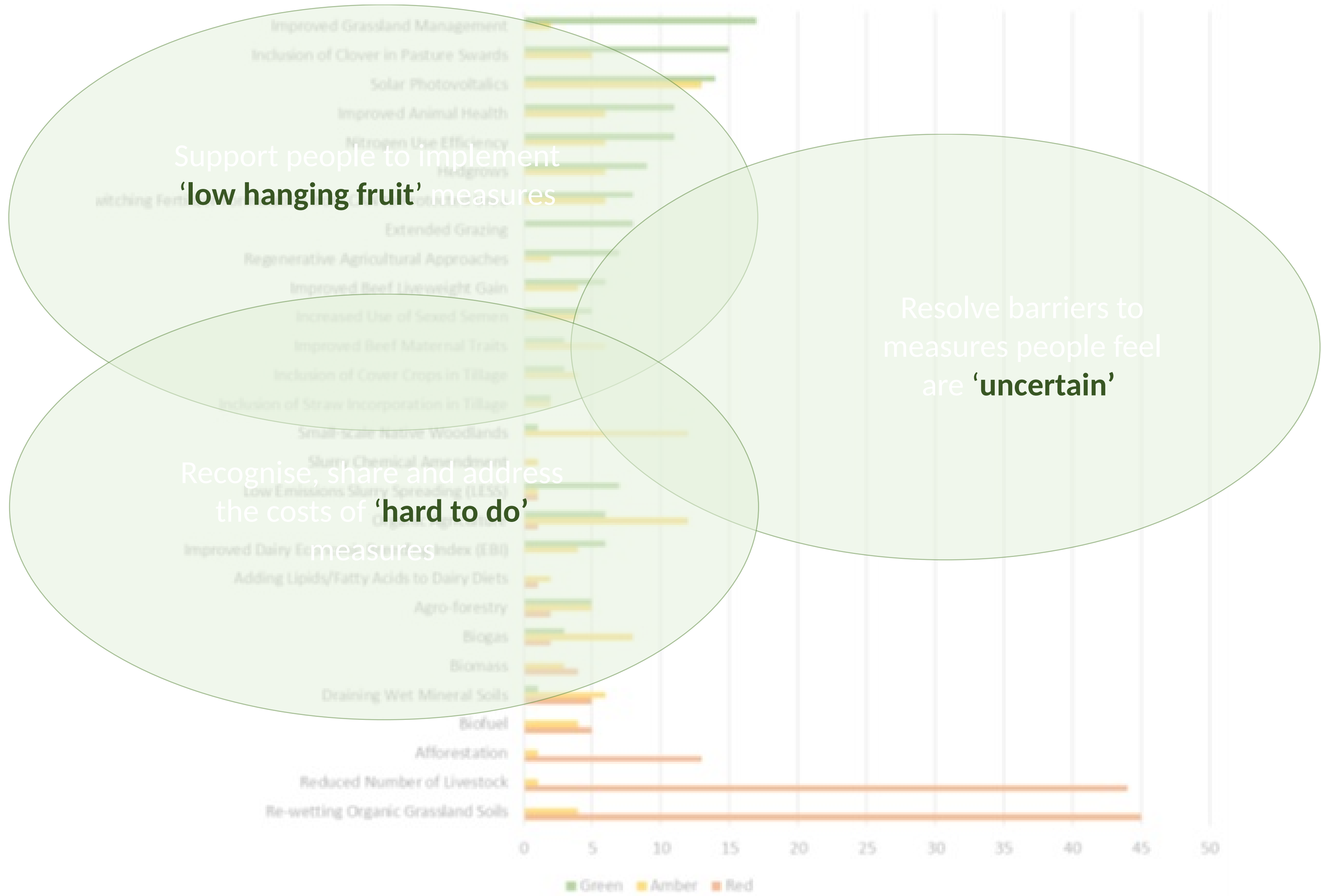
Reduced Fertiliser Use	
Nitrogen-Use Efficiency (NUE)	Orange, Orange, Green
Inclusion of Clover in Pasture Swards	Orange, Green, Orange
Switching Fertiliser Formulation from CAN to Protected Urea	Green
Draining Wet Mineral Soils	Red
Organic Agriculture	Green, Green, Orange
Regenerative agricultural approaches	Green
Slurry Chemical Amendment	
Low-Emission Slurry Spreading	Green
Improved Grassland Management	Orange, Green
Re-wetting organic grassland soils	Red, Red, Red, Red, Red, Red, Red, Red, Orange

## Workshop Exercise: assigning 'green', 'amber', 'red'





Results of Workshop Exercise: assigning 'green', 'amber', 'red' dots to measures



Support people to implement **'low hanging fruit'** measures

Recognise, share and address the costs of **'hard to do'** measures

Resolve barriers to measures people feel are **'uncertain'**

Support people to implement  
**'low hanging fruit'** measures

**Intervention 1**

Recognise, share and address  
the costs of **'hard to do'**  
measures

**Intervention 2**

Resolve barriers to  
measures people feel  
are **'uncertain'**

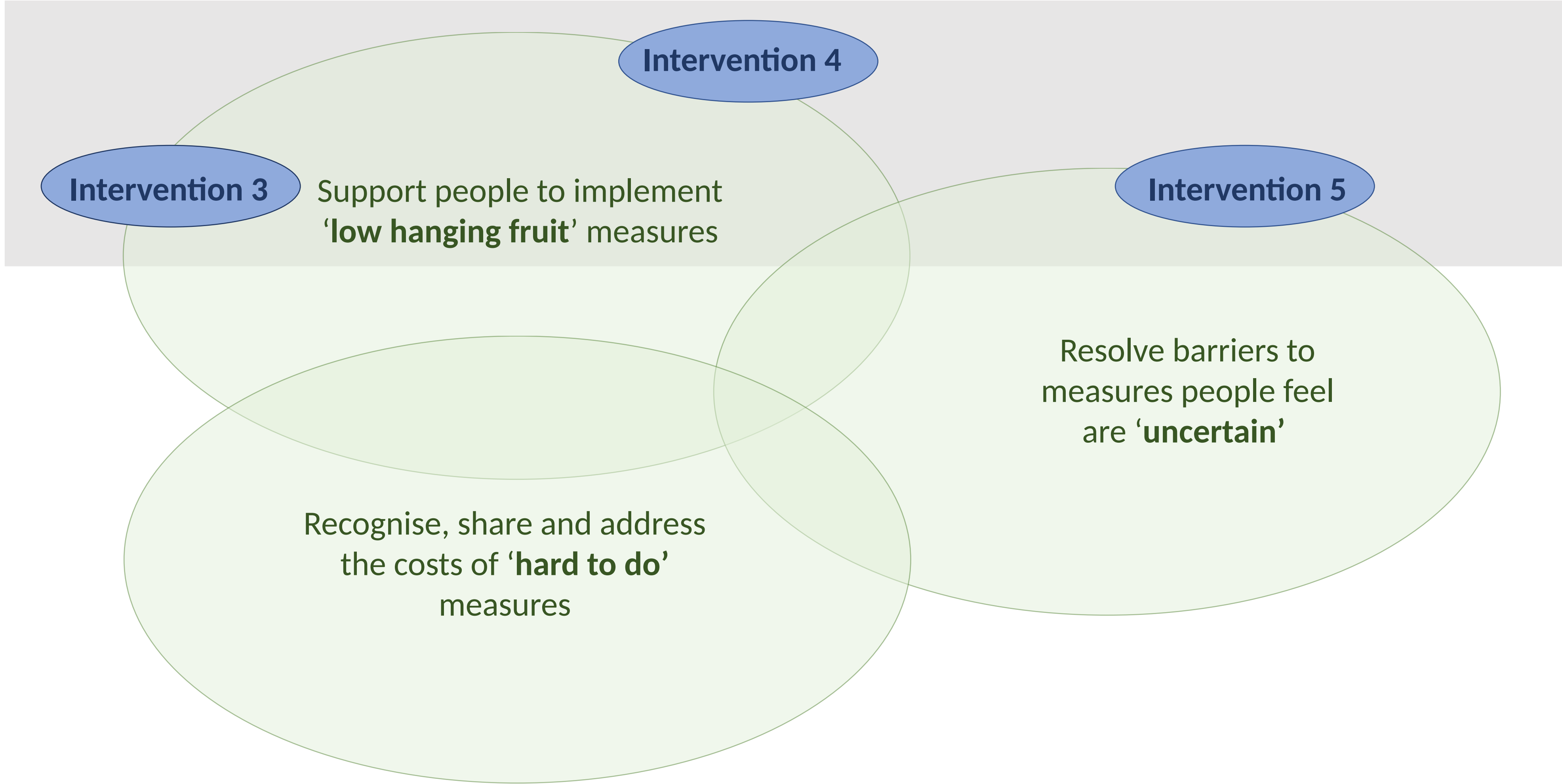
Socially inclusive  
dialogue to ensure a  
fair process

CAP21 JT Principle iv

*Social dialogue to  
ensure impacted  
citizens and  
communities are  
empowered and are  
core to the transition  
process*

## Enhancing Socially Inclusive Processes

- The Council recommends that a deep and wide process of further engagement with stakeholders should be undertaken in order to build a greater sense of shared direction for transition in the agriculture and land-use system.
- The Council recommends that a strand of shared island collaboration and dialogue should include a focus on climate and agriculture, and just transition in particular.
- The Council recommends building on local and context-specific participation and experimentation in order to ensure that approaches that have been impactful at the local level are successfully scaled up nationally.



Enabling people to benefit from the opportunities of transition

↑  
CAP21 JT Principle ii

*People are equipped with the right skills to be able to participate in and benefit from the future net-zero economy.*

- Enabling People to Benefit from the Opportunities*
- 
- The Council recommends that farm advisory services should scale up and more fully align with environmental objectives and ensure that bespoke ecological expertise can be provided at farm level.
  - The Council recommends that more research is needed on the opportunities and implications of transition for workers in the supply chains and downstream activity associated with agriculture and land use.
  - The Council recommends that work on accounting for nature should be accelerated. This is an area where NES can play a role and work is already underway.
  - The Council, while recognising the importance of current schemes, recommends that the financial resources available from EU, public and private sources to reward farmers for protecting and enhancing ecosystem services should be significantly increased.
  - The Council recommends further work to reduce uncertainty around diversification options experienced by farmers and other stakeholders.

JCAP21 T Principle iii

Costs are shared so that the impact is equitable and existing inequalities are not exacerbated.



Mitigating and sharing the costs to ensure equitable distribution of impacts

Support people to implement **'low hanging fruit'** measures

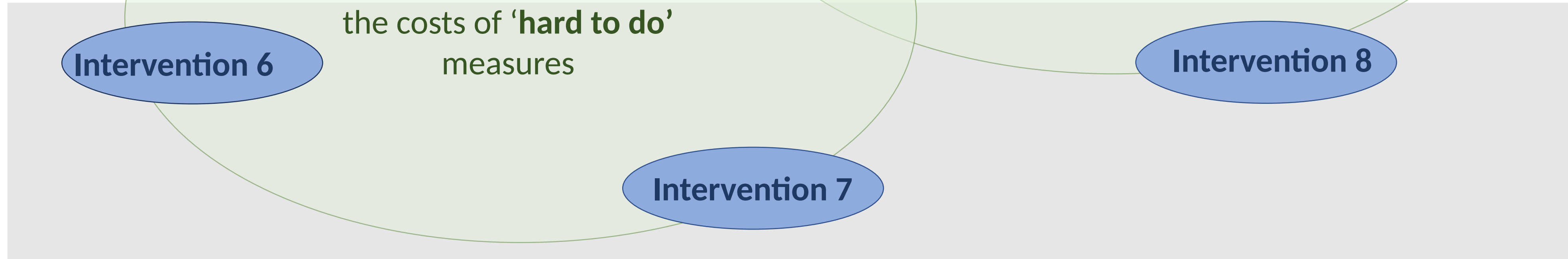
Resolve barriers to measures people feel are **'uncertain'**

Recognise, share and address the costs of **'hard to do'** measures

**Intervention 6**

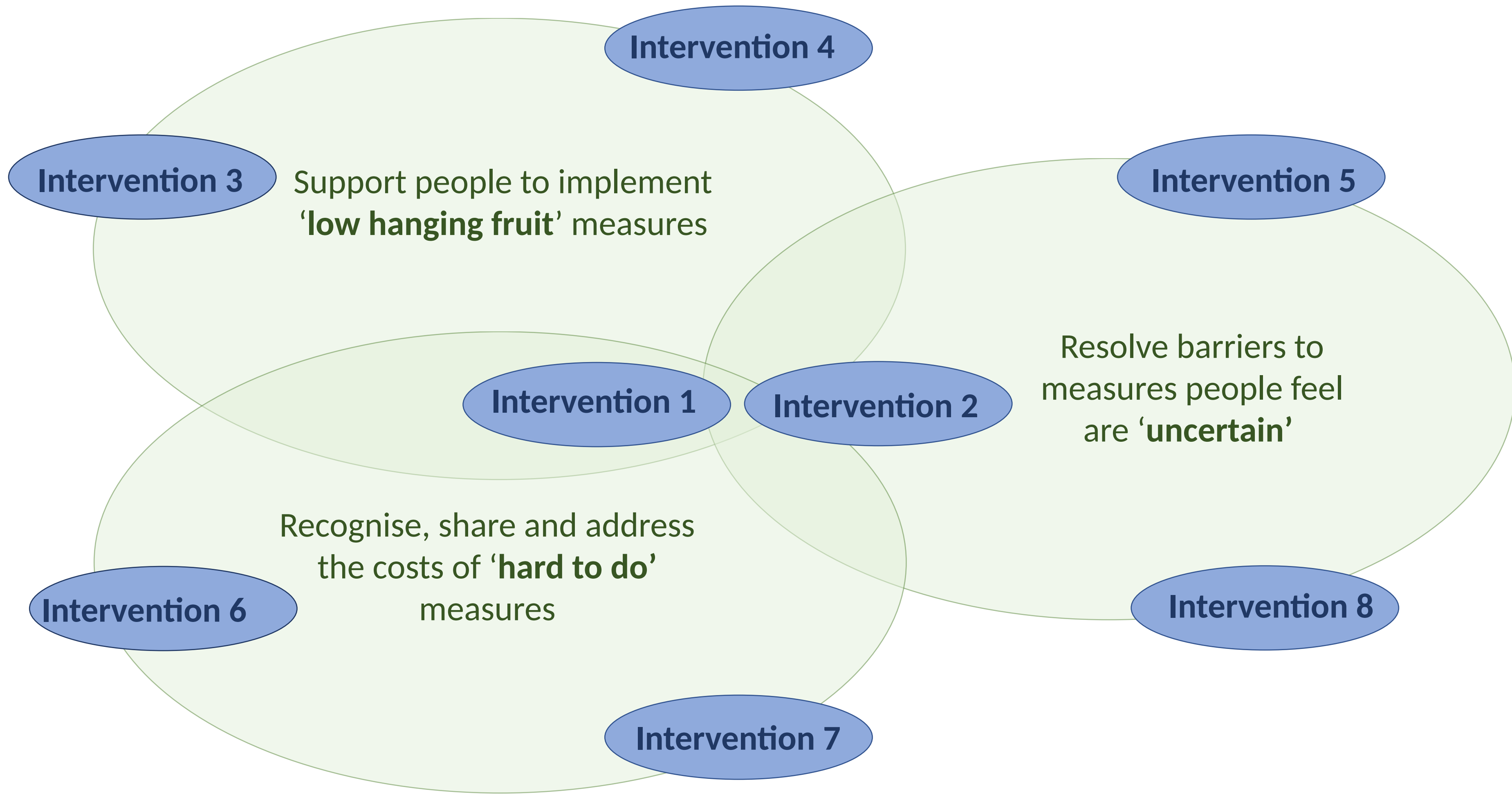
**Intervention 8**

**Intervention 7**



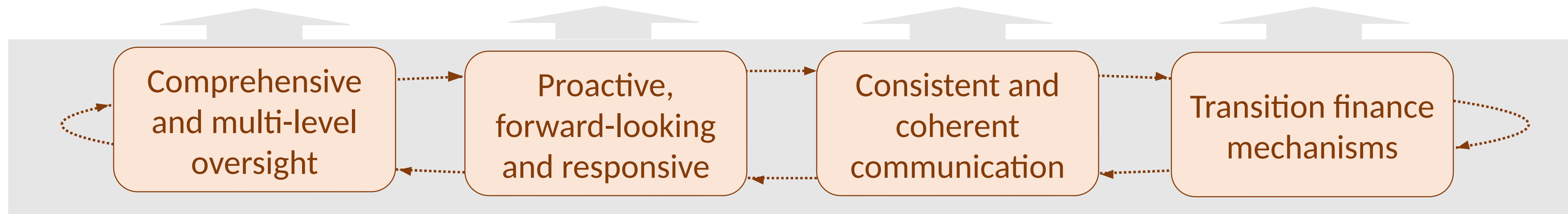
## Share and Mitigate the Costs of Transition

- The Council recommends developing a strategy for effort sharing based on additional investment in research, data, evidence and monitoring of the distributional impacts across the agriculture and land use sector.
- The Council recommends that the strategy for effort sharing (Recommendation 16) should also be informed by new research to consider existing and potential effort-sharing mechanisms across the agriculture and land-use system.
- The Council recommends that more robust standards and certification should be developed to support effort sharing along agriculture and land use supply chains.
- The Council recommends that an examination of the spectrum of supports for those vulnerable to transition in agriculture should be conducted and progressed to ensure that no one is left behind.
- The Council recommends more robust screening of policies and measures of transition in agriculture and land use, and greater compliance with regulations, to avoid unintended consequences.



CAP21 JT Principle *i*

*An integrated, structured, and evidence-based approach to identify and plan our response to just transition requirements.*



Coordinating action to drive ambition & ensure an integrated, structured, evidence-based approach



## Coordinating Action & Driving Ambition: The Council recommends:

1. ...establishing an Implementation Group for Climate Transition in Agriculture in 2023 in order to consider the recommendations arising from this report.
2. ...that NESC's work on just transition in agriculture and land use should inform and shape the next stages in the development of the Land Use Review.
3. ...the agriculture and land-use transition should be a focus of current and future dedicated climate communications work.
4. ...that the agriculture and land-use system should be a priority focus for just transition of institutions, processes and resourcing in Ireland, notably in the work of the forthcoming Just Transition Commission, which should be established as soon as possible.
5. ...the establishment of a Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use fund, consolidating available carbon tax revenues and other public resources.
6. ...applying a just transition lens to climate adaptation in agriculture, forestry and other land use.
7. ...a wide scope in the monitoring of transition, including economic, social and environmental aspects and data at local scale in support of place-based transition.



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# Insights for Other Areas

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# Insights for the Just Transition Commission and other sectors

- Feasible to undertake a similar process for exploring the application of JT principles for other sectors such as transport, land use.
- Just transition must be informed by enquiry and practice.
- A fair process is important for achieving fair outcomes.
- Consider the agility of the Commission to 'zoom out' to consider overall how to drive a fair and inclusive transition as well as to 'zoom in' to deliver specific tasks.
- Reflect on how enabling people to participate in and benefit from transition is more than accessing skills and training: enabling an opportunities-led transition.
- Specific focus required on effort-sharing and targeted supports across supply chains/indirect impacts.
- Develop transition indicators – ensuring scope across economic, social and environmental; include local scale.

## Conclusion:

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- Stakeholder agreement reached on how to approach a just transition in agriculture and land use.
- Effective governance processes for co-ordinating action can learn from initiatives.
- An opportunities-led transition is vital for enabling people to benefit from transition in agriculture.
- Recognising, fairly sharing and mitigating costs – especially targeted at the most vulnerable is critical.
- There are actions that can be taken now – clear policy recommendations for government.
- The insights from just transition in agriculture and land use are applicable to other sectors.
- The work of the Just Transition Commission can support more effective governance.
- There is a way forward for a just transition in practice- decent process and solution-focused.



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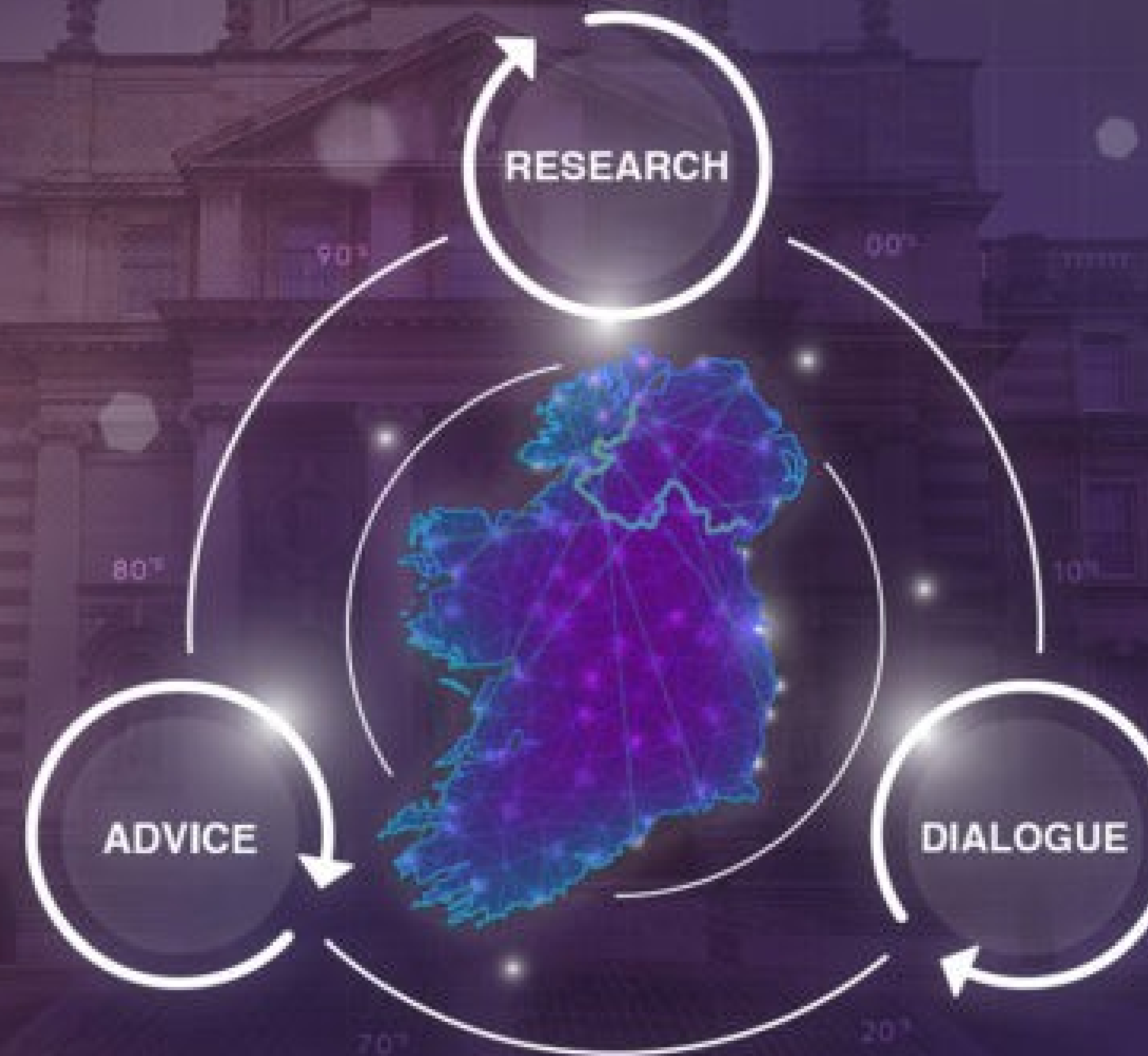
# A Thriving Ireland: Foundations & Actions

NESC@50 Conference

Venue | The Printworks | Dublin Castle

Date | Thursday, 23rd November 2023

Time | 09.00 | Registration | 08.30



<https://www.nesc.ie/news-events/news/nesc-at-50-conference/>