



IO1 – Climate Change  
Awareness  
Compendium of  
Comedy and  
Learning  
Lesson Plan –  
Renewable Energy



**FARCE!**

Using Satire and Comedy to Promote  
Climate Change Awareness



## Introduction to the Lesson Plan

The aim of this lesson plan is to support you, as a community and adult educator, to deliver a session using the FARCE Climate Change Awareness – Compendium of Comedy and Learning resources, with adult learners in your group. Through this lesson plan, we will provide you with some sample activities that you can use to deliver one of the Comedy Resources from this Compendium in a group-work setting. When preparing to deliver these activities in your group, it is important that you are prepared to use the Comedy for Climate Change resources. For this, we recommend that you complete the relevant modules from our FARCE In-service Training Programme, before delivering these activities in your practice.

## Introduction to the Climate Change topic – Renewable Energy

This lesson plan and comedy resource has been developed to address the topic of renewable energy, and renewable energy sources in Ireland. Renewable energy refers to energy that is sourced from renewable sources such as wind, waves, tides, sunlight and even rain – which is quite convenient in Ireland. In other countries, like Iceland for example, geothermal heat can also be a sustainable source of energy. As well as providing electricity to our national grid, renewable resources can also be used to heat and cool our homes – an example of this is the use of heat pumps which source heat from the ground and can be used to heat water in our home heating systems. While it is estimated that approximately 20% of global energy consumption is now sourced from renewables, and almost 30% of our electricity is from renewable sources, in Ireland, we are lagging behind our targets set by the European Commission. For example, according to research by Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, (2017), in 2018 only 11% of our energy consumption came from renewable sources; however, our target was to have 16% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020. This shows that we need to do more to invest in renewable energy in Ireland. Through this lesson plan and resource, we aim to raise awareness about what renewable energy is, what sources are available in Ireland, and what we can do to be more responsible and sustainable consumers of energy in Ireland.





## Getting to know the Resources

In this section, we will provide you with a brief introduction to the Comedy Resource that you will use in when delivering this lesson plan in a group of adult learners.

### What is covered in the Comedy Resource?

This lesson plan has been developed to support you as an educator to apply the FARCE Comedy Resource – “It’s just a fan” – in your teaching practice working with adult learners. This video resource is set in a workplace in Ireland, where two colleagues are discussing a local wind turbine and the function of it. The colleagues debate whether the fan is used to create electricity, or to act as a fan that will cool down the Earth by circulating cool air in our towns and villages. As such, through this comedy sketch, our intention is to raise awareness about sources of renewable energy, and to start a conversation about our energy consumption on a national level.

This comedy resource is presented as a comedy sketch video, with actors playing the part of colleagues. This video was scripted, recorded, and produced by staff from The Rural Hub. As a digital media company, we chose the medium of a comedy sketch video to communicate this message because we believe in the power of audio-visual content to influence its audience and have an impact on their behaviour. As such, through this video we are practicing sustainable film-making practices, by promoting positive messages about climate action and behavioural change for sustainable living through the medium of film.

### Applying this Comedy Resource

This comedy resource provides a satirical account of how we understand and appreciate renewable energy in our communities. What we are aiming to highlight with this video is that often there is a lack of education about renewable energy in our national grid, and that in order to have informed citizens who can have an impact on climate change by changing their energy consumption habits, then we need to educate them more about where their energy is being sourced from. By proposing that the aim of a wind turbine is to cool down the towns and villages, rather than to act as a source of energy for those towns and villages, we are





highlighting how a lack of education and misconceptions about our energy consumption can act as a further barrier to addressing climate change in our communities.

In delivering this comedy resource in a classroom setting, our advice would be to start with a general discussion about where our energy comes from in Ireland; by completing a poll in the adult learner group to assess how much of our energy comes from renewable sources. We would then recommend playing the video, before leading a group discussion about the different sources or types of renewable energy in Ireland, and then completing a short activity where adult learners consider the five most used appliances in their homes, and research to find out how much energy each of these uses per day. This outline of activities is included in the following lesson plan.

## Lesson Plan

<b>Title of Session:</b>	<b>Renewable Energy – Is a wind turbine just a fan?</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>Resources Required:</b>
This lesson plan will take <b>80 minutes</b> to deliver	To deliver this lesson plan, you will require the following resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laptop, with access to the internet</li> <li>• Projector and screen; or a television/screen to show the video</li> </ul> Comedy resource: It’s just a fan: <a href="https://www.climatefarce.eu/openfile/1257">https://www.climatefarce.eu/openfile/1257</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pens and note-taking materials for all adult learners</li> <li>• Flipchart or whiteboard and markers for group discussion points</li> <li>• Training room with a space for discussion and breakout sessions</li> </ul>
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	
<b>On successful completion of this lesson, learners will be able to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define what renewable energy is</li> <li>• Discuss the different types and sources of renewable energy in Ireland</li> <li>• Evaluate the energy consumption of appliances in their homes</li> </ul>	
<b>Workshop Opening</b>	





Duration	Description of Activity	Links to Support Materials
<b>10 minutes</b>	<p>Welcome and Icebreaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facilitator begins this session by welcoming all adult learners to the workshop and introducing the aims of this workshop on renewable energy.</li> <li>The facilitator then asks all participants to turn to the person on their left and to tell them their name and their motivation for joining this workshop today. If this is the second time that the group is meeting, this activity should be varied to instruct adult learners to speak to someone who they have not spoken with before.</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Group Activity 1</b>		
Duration	Description of Activity	Links to Support Materials
<b>20 minutes</b>	<p>FARCE Comedy Resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facilitator starts by leading a short group discussion about renewable energy in Ireland. The facilitator starts by asking adult learners, what is renewable energy? The facilitator can draw a mind-map on a flipchart sheet and ask participants to identify words linked to renewable energy.</li> <li>Following on from this, the facilitator reviews the words in the mind-map and with the group, together they will compose a definition of 'renewable energy'.</li> <li>The facilitator then completes a poll – by show of hands – in the group to ask how much of our energy in Ireland comes from renewable sources. For up-to-date statistics, the facilitator can check this website in advance of this workshop: <a href="https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-statistics/key-statistics/">https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-statistics/key-statistics/</a></li> </ul>	<p>Comedy resource: It's just a fan: <a href="https://www.climatefarce.eu/openfile/1257">https://www.climatefarce.eu/openfile/1257</a></p> <p>Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland – Key Statistics: <a href="https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-statistics/key-statistics/">https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-statistics/key-statistics/</a></p>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The facilitator plays the FARCE comedy resource – “It’s just a fan”.</li> <li>• Following on from this video, the facilitator leads a group feedback session by asking:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is your general impression of the video?</li> <li>○ What are the key messages being highlighted by this video in your opinion?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Group Activity 2</b>		
Duration	Description of Activity	Links to Support Materials
<b>40 minutes</b>	<p>Renewable Energy in Ireland and in my Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After watching the video, the facilitator then leads a discussion with the group about the sources and types of renewable energy that are most used in Ireland. For this discussion, the facilitator can create another mind-map on the flipchart or white-board and invite learners to list all types of renewable energy in Ireland, and to explain a bit about each source. The facilitator can check up-to-date information on this topic at this link: <a href="http://ireland2050.ie/">http://ireland2050.ie/</a>, in advance of the workshop.</li> <li>• The facilitator then divides the group of learners into smaller groups of 2 or 3 and asks them to think of the most commonly used appliances in their homes, to select the top 5 appliances, and to research online to find the energy used by these appliances, based on average use.</li> <li>• After 15 minutes, the facilitator will bring the group back together, and will discuss the findings with the group from this small group activity.</li> </ul>	<p>Ireland 2050 – Understanding Our Energy Choices: <a href="http://ireland2050.ie/">http://ireland2050.ie/</a></p>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aim of this activity is to highlight among learners where we get our energy from, and how much we use in our homes.</li> <li>• If there is time, the facilitator can moderate a final group brainstorming session to identify 5 ways that each of us can reduce the energy footprints of our homes. These ideas can be noted down on the flipchart, and all learners can be asked to take note of these tips to refer to later.</li> </ul>	
<b>Workshop Close</b>		
Duration	Description of Activity	Links to Support Materials
<b>10 minutes</b>	<p>Workshop Close and Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To bring this workshop to a close, the facilitator asks all adult learners to complete a ‘one-word’ feedback round. For this activity, all adult learners are asked to stand in a circle, and to mention one word which they would use to describe this workshop.</li> <li>• Each adult learner is then asked to take a piece of paper, and to write down:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Two things they learned from the workshop/that they could apply to their own life to address climate change.</li> <li>○ One thing that would like to learn more about.</li> <li>○ One thing was included in the workshop that was not useful.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The facilitator can then thank all adult learners for their active participation in the workshop, and will close the workshop session.</li> </ul>	N/A





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