

Delivering social and environmental justice through a farm for children in care

Attendee: Joy O'Neill

Course: Building a Circular Business and Can business deliver social and environmental justice?

Date: 6th June – 7th July 2022 and 7th November – 12th December 2022

Joy's business is Agricura CIC, a working farm that children in care can visit. She also offers support & consultancy to others currently running or considering setting up care farms.

Joy was analysing other farms whilst conducting a feasibility study into setting up her own. A recurrent arising issue was around how volunteers and service-users will travel to and from the farm.

Project



Joy attended two of Arca's online courses - Building a Circular Business in June 2022, and How can business deliver social and environmental justice? in November 2022.



Photo: Joy O'Neill

The Impact



- Joy attended webinars to learn how to identify and analyse potential improvements to their business model, such as composting on site and donating surplus food to a community larder.
- As Joy had not yet bought land for her farm, these activities allowed her to make further considerations in terms of location, and how delegates would get to the venue. For example, could the farm be within 5 miles of a train-line? Could an electric minibus be purchased to collect people from local train or coach stations?

• There are expected longer-term benefits to Joy's participation in Arca's second course, 'Can business deliver social and environmental justice?', which involved mapping the business using the triple-layered business model canvas.

“[Arca's courses helped especially in] thinking about all the elements of our training course, such as the venue location and sustainable venues, [being] accessible by public transport, locally sourced food for refreshments, online materials rather than paper etc.”

Joy O'Neill