

**Benefits of
remote
working for
community**

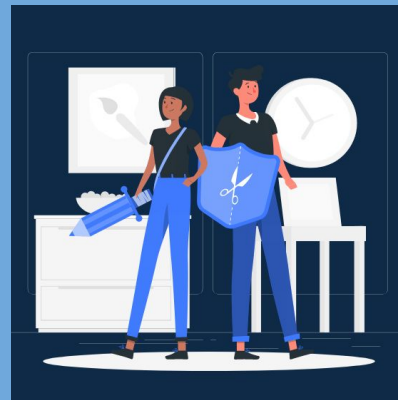
Who am I?

Rose Barrett

Community Manager with Grow Remote

I believe passionately about the power of
community to make huge changes in our society

I grew up in a pub in Athenry, Co Galway
(and learned how to butter lots of bread from a young age)

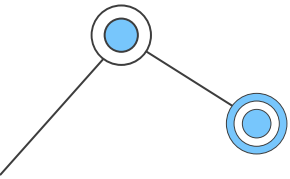
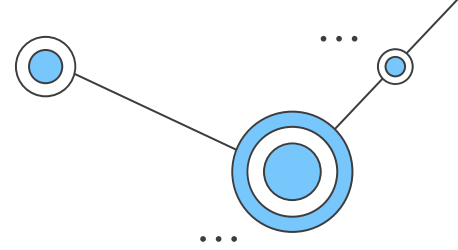


What is Grow Remote about?

Our vision is to
enable vibrant and
sustainable
communities

We help this to
happen by making
remote work visible
& accessible

Community is at the
core of this, with
chapters all across
Ireland making
remote work real at
a local level



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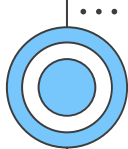
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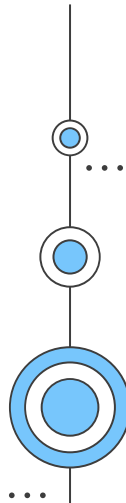


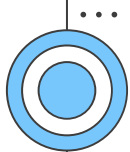


Current challenges in our communities



- Depopulation
- Access to jobs
 - Reduced spend in the community
 - Also hard to focus on volunteering when employment is insecure
- People are time poor
- Lack of engagement in the community
 - Commuting
 - Routes to get involved aren't clear
- Need for more skill sets to support community projects
- Existing volunteers & committees have given years of support

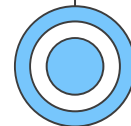


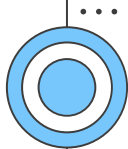


Advantages of remote workers to community



- More time
 - Can volunteer & get involved
- Better network
 - They are working with people from across the globe with a range of skills, knowledge and their own networks
- Often a better/more stable salary
 - Better for the local economy, allowing people to spend more in local businesses
- Skill set
 - This could be finance, communications, funding applications, the list goes on. Remote workers are also likely to have access to growing their skills through professional development
- Knowledge of opportunities gained in one area & brought back to the locale
 - Both diaspora & new residents

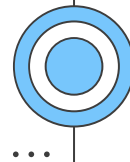


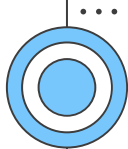


Who are these remote workers?



- Existing “hidden” remote workers in a community
 - They might never have had a reason to highlight their status as a remote worker before
- People landing remote jobs and new to remote
 - They are growing skills
 - Gaining time back
 - Growing their networks
- Diaspora
 - Remote workers returning to the locale, often attracted back to raise a family & to embrace quality of life upgrades
- New residents
 - Remote workers new to an area, they are looking for much of the same things as the diaspora. Very keen to get involved & will be lacking local contacts

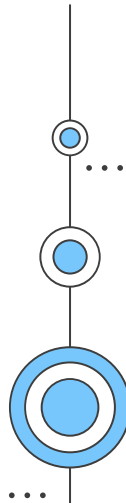


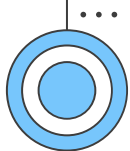


What does this all give us?



- Time saved from “killing the commute” is reinvested in the community
- Key skill sets are gained, improved or returned to the locale ready to impact on local groups and projects
- The access to knowledge & network expands with the remote workers
- New ideas are shared and built upon with improved collaboration & renewed engagement and enthusiasm
 - Some of how we’ve done things in the community space no longer works, we move with how people now like to communicate, track projects and collaborate
 - But the cups of tea are still key!
- People keen to reinvest in their communities, to find social groups & to give back

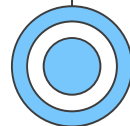


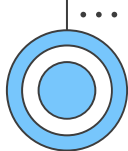


Now they're here, how to engage them?



- Firstly make them aware, tell the story of the work you are doing to help people engage with why they would want to help
 - Use existing networks to find them, e.g. Grow Remote Chapters, Chambers, LEOs
- Make it clear what you need
 - How much time are you looking for them to invest? What skills do you require? Where possible define this as much as possible
- Create micro-volunteering opportunities
 - This is particularly useful for hard to access skills like grant writing, someone could be delighted to give 10 hours over a month to drive the progress of a local project & be happy to leave it there
- Get clear on culture within your group..
 - Expectations have changed & people want to engage in supportive settings. use COC & values statements to make things clear





Ideas around engagement



- Foster a culture of recognition and gratitude
- Model the behaviour you wish to see in your organisation
- Organise regular meetups & encourage others to take ownership of these
 - **A simple regular coffee meetup can be powerful, facilitate interesting conversations, maybe even play the occasional game!**
- Organise co-hosted events with complimentary organisations
- Have certificates to recognise achievements and effort put in
- Tell the stories of the people impacted by what you are doing regularly, share them with each other and with the community
- Host an open day where people can ask questions about getting involved
- Layout the process for getting involved on a website, make it easy for people to ask about getting involved & make it clear how they can get involved
- ...
- Have micro volunteering options for those in the wider community who want to support by can't commit more time



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

Learn more about us here:
GrowRemote.ie

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