



Leitrim County Council



#climateactionleitrim

Climate
Action Plan
2024-2029



SLIGO ANGLERS
ASSOCIATION

Foreword

Addressing climate change has become a global priority, with efforts focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable practices, and adapting to the changes already underway.

The National Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23) requires the public sector to play a leadership role in driving far-reaching climate action across its buildings, transport, waste, and energy usage, as well as influencing wider society to strive for similar action. Public Sector targets include the challenge of reducing Leitrim County Council's own emissions by 51% by 2030 from baseline year of 2018. These targets are to be achieved while increasing climate literacy in the public sector, implementing green public procurement, and retrofitting public sector buildings.

The implementation of actions set out in Leitrim County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 combined with those outlined in this Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, will assist Leitrim County Council in embedding climate action measures across all local authority services, setting realistic and achievable targets and timelines for delivery. This Plan also makes provision for a Decarbonising Zone around

Carrick-on-Shannon to lead a place-based approach for what is possible through climate action at local and community levels.

Collaborative efforts between Leitrim County Council and local, regional and national stakeholders will help bring together diverse perspectives, expertise, and will foster innovation and solutions to achieving the shared goals of reducing emissions and enhancing biodiversity across the County.

The Elected Members in partnership with the Executive of Leitrim County Council have committed to achieving the national targets for public sector emission reduction. This Plan offers an opportunity to bring together critical stakeholders across communities and businesses in Leitrim to work together towards realising a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.



Justin Warnock
Cathaoirleach



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Chief Executive



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Executive Summary

Climate change is increasingly understood to be the most critical, long term global challenge of our time. The need for solutions to reduce emissions and to plan for inevitable impacts are urgent and the most effective way to deliver international and national policy goals is at community level through place-based climate action.

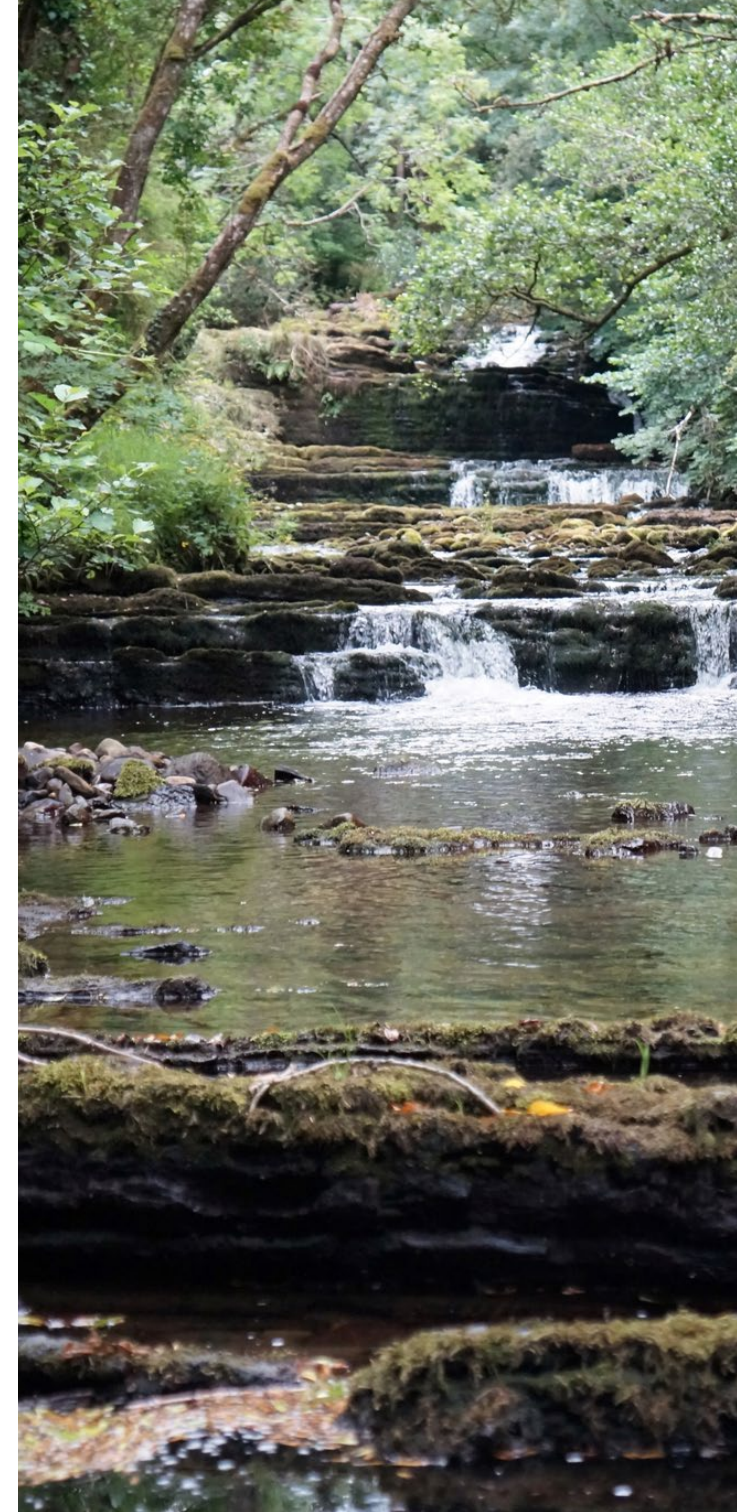
Local Authorities have a key role in the delivery of both climate mitigation and adaptation action. Leitrim County Council has a responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across its own assets and infrastructure in accordance with statutory targets but to also to lead, support, influence and facilitate stakeholders within the County to meet their own targets. This is facilitated through the Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan for the period 2024 to 2029, which specifies the measures on mitigation and adaptation to lead and deliver effective climate action at local level, in community with all the stakeholders across the County.

Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan takes a robust and evidenced based approach from establishment of a baseline emissions inventory against which progress can be assessed, identifying of current and future climate change risk and development of appropriate actions in participation with all stakeholders in a transparent manner that is realistic and ambitious for County Leitrim. The

Overall Plan Vision is consistent with the National Climate Objective for transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

The Plan has been developed in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the National Climate Action Plan 2023 to deliver the targets for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51% by 2030. The Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan is being developed in consultation and collaboration with all stakeholders in County Leitrim including Elected Members, departments within the County Council, the commercial and industrial sector, agricultural sector, community groups and the general public. The Plan makes provision for a Decarbonising Zone around Carrick-on-Shannon that will provide an opportunity for Leitrim County Council in collaboration with the local community and businesses within the town to lead on climate action with ambition to fully realise environmental, social and economic sustainability benefits.

Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan will be implemented through a whole-of-council approach working collaboratively with all stakeholders. Implementation of actions identified across five strategy areas will be monitored against key performance indicators over the life of the Plan.



1. Introduction

Climate change action has become a global priority, with mitigation efforts focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable practices, and adapting to the changes already underway.

- **Climate Change Mitigation** relates to changing how we live, move, consume and manufacture, so as to reduce and / or eliminate the production of harmful greenhouse gases, it also includes how we best use our land; and
- **Climate Change Adaptation** refers to dealing with the impacts of climate change and involves taking practical actions to manage risks, protect communities and strengthen the resilience of the economy (e.g. from flooding, sea level rise etc).

This Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan sets out how the Local Authority will work across its services and functions and in partnership with government agencies, businesses, communities, public sector and other stakeholders, to deliver on national climate obligations at local level. Figure 1 illustrates the Council scope of responsibility for climate action.

This Climate Action Plan covers delivery over five years, 2024 - 2029



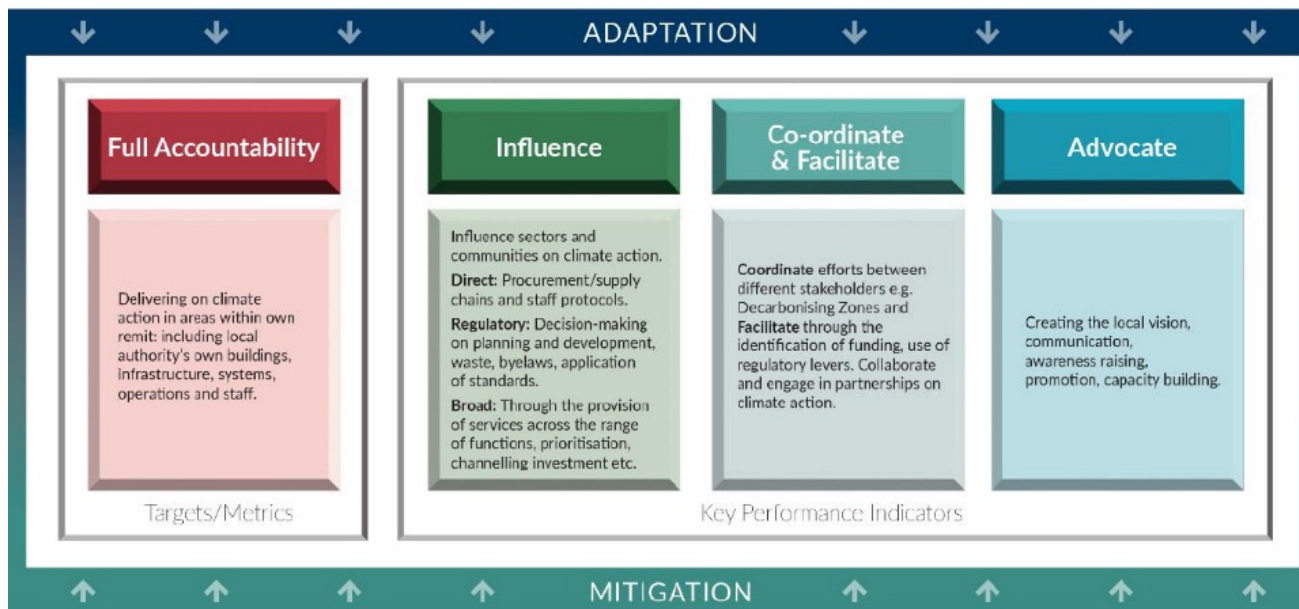


Figure 1 Local Authority scope on Climate Action (source Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines 2023)

By tackling climate change, we will need to transform how we generate energy and radically re-think how we live, travel, do business, produce goods and deal with our waste. In doing so, a host of benefits can be achieved for current and future generations including warmer homes, vibrant and resilient communities, biodiversity-rich landscapes, improved health and wellbeing, new skills and jobs and a thriving green local economy.

The Climate Action Plan sets a clear pathway for Leitrim County Council to:

- actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.

- assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels.
- identify and deliver a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures in a specifically defined area, through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.

In a changing climate, the aim is to become more resilient to all future possibilities, allowing local communities to thrive and work towards real solutions that are meaningful, inclusive, fair and accessible for all, thereby prioritising a Just Transition.





Vision

Leitrim County Council will work to support the transition of County Leitrim to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.



Mission

Leitrim County Council will lead by example to deliver transformative change through measurable action while influencing and supporting positive climate action throughout the community, ensuring that County Leitrim remains an attractive, competitive and sustainable place for present and future generations.

1.1. Climate Change

Climate change refers to a large-scale, long-term shift in the Earth's weather patterns and average temperature, caused by the release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases such as water vapour, methane, ozone, and nitrous oxide which get trapped in the Earth's atmosphere.

Greenhouse gases are relatively transparent to incoming solar radiation but trap heat from leaving the Earth's surface causing warming in the atmosphere, raising global temperatures with associated consequences of direct, complex and synergistic impacts on biotic systems.

Overwhelming evidence has shown that global warming has accelerated since the pre-industrial era through anthropogenic activities that give rise to greenhouse gas emissions from burning of fossil fuels for energy and removal of carbon sinks from changes in land use. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) **Sixth Assessment Report** states that in the 2011-2020 period global surface temperatures have reached 1.1°C above the period 1850-1900.

The global increase in temperatures prompting climate change will cause more heatwaves, droughts, intense rainfall and other extreme weather across the world. These impacts will increase the likelihood and severity of a variety of risks including flooding, migration of people, damage to infrastructure, food insecurity and loss of biodiversity.

Ireland's climate is changing in line with global patterns with average surface temperatures having increased by approximately 0.9°C since 1900 (refer to Figure 2). The impacts of this are evident through the increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, changes in precipitation, rising sea levels and impacts to our critical built and natural systems, with these trends projected to continue and intensify into the future.

Climate change is a major health threat facing humanity and is a '*crisis multiplier*'. The impacts are already harming health through air pollution, disease, extreme weather events and related trauma, forced displacement, food insecurity, negative impacts on mental health and excess deaths.

Met Éireann stated that 2023 was '*the warmest year on record*'. This would see Ireland's temperature above the long-term average for the 13th consecutive year. Furthermore,

2022 saw record breaking temperatures observed in Ireland during the summer, recording the second highest temperature ever recorded at 33°C.

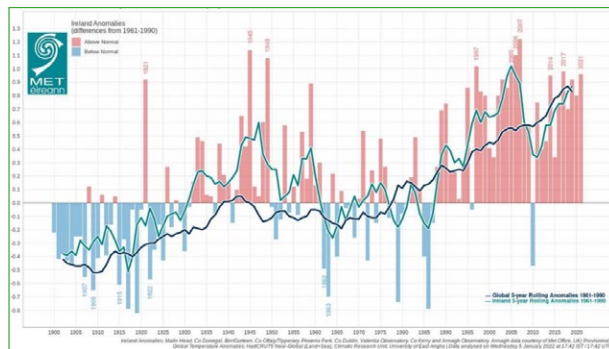


Figure 2 Island of Ireland 1900-2022 Temperature (°C) Anomalies (difference from 1961-1990) (Source: Met Éireann)

This is reiterated in the precipitation observations from 2022, where rainfall was recorded at below the long-term average at most stations. There was variability in rainfall throughout 2022, with extremes being felt in each of the seasons, resulting in a drier summer and spring, and a wetter autumn and winter.

Global mean sea level increased by 20 cm between 1901 and 2018. The trend in global mean sea level rise has been consistently rising since 1901. Ireland has so far seen a similar rise in sea level with an average of 2-3 mm per year. A warming climate has caused a rise in sea level, through the loss of sea ice and thermal expansion (the increase in the volume of water due to heating) resulting from the warming ocean.

Ireland has suffered from adverse climate impacts already and recent extreme weather events have highlighted the vulnerability of individuals,

businesses, communities, sectors and infrastructure to climate change, emphasising the need for urgency on climate action across all sectors of society.

For example, storms such as Arwen and Barra in 2021 most notably, left 59,000 homes and businesses without power. The adverse impacts of climate change can often compound wider reaching social, environmental and economic challenges. This can increase vulnerability and sensitivity to a changing climate and climate extremes.

Based on observed changes in climate and its impacts, Met Éireann, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other climate scientists, are able to make robust projections on future climate patterns in Ireland and globally.

The EPA, Marine Institute and Met Éireann published **The Status of Ireland's Climate** Report in July 2021. Future climate projections for Ireland (and more locally for County Leitrim) can be summarised as follows:

- Climate projections indicate that the climate trends observed over the last century will continue and intensify over the coming decades.
- Temperatures are increasing and are expected to continue to increase and across all seasons.
- Significant reductions in levels of average precipitation (rainfall) are expected in spring and summer, whilst projections indicate the increased occurrence of extreme precipitation events, particularly during winter.

- Projections show little change in average wind speed and direction, the frequency of extreme wind conditions are expected to increase, particularly during winter.
- Increases in the frequency of fluvial (river) and pluvial (surface water) flooding.
- Increases in the frequency and intensity of summer heat waves, extreme temperatures and drought.
- Reductions in the frequency of frost and snowfall.
- An increase in the duration of the growing season (phenological cycle).

The state of Ireland's climate today and how it may look in the future can be brought together in one simple conclusion. Ireland's climate has changed relative to the 1900s, it has undoubtedly warmed along with global temperatures, bringing about an array of impacts that are associated with a warmer climate and more extreme weather events.

1.2. Need for this Climate Action Plan

Leitrim County Council has prepared this Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, to set out how the local authority can help tackle climate change and promote a range of mitigation and adaptation climate action measures, to help deliver on the national climate obligations and the Government's overall National Climate Objective, which seeks to:

Pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

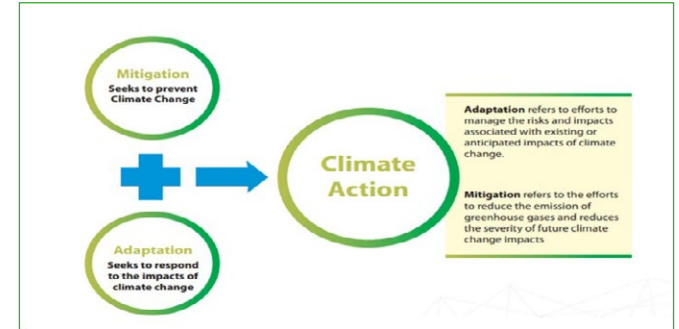


Figure 3 Methods for Climate Action

More broadly, the Climate Action Plan in addition to deliver on national climate obligations, will assist to:

- Signal Leitrim County Council's commitment to address climate change and the environmental, social and economic challenges.
- Help communities living in County Leitrim to understand and effectively respond to climate change impacts.
- Support County Leitrim to transition to a climate neutral local economy where activities don't have a negative impact on the climate.
- Ensure County Leitrim makes a meaningful contribution towards national and global climate action targets under the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.
- Position County Leitrim to stay competitive and be an attractive place to live, work and visit in the transition to climate neutrality.

- Demonstrate leadership through influence, coordination facilitation, raising awareness, advocacy and cultivating necessary partnerships.
- Support the Carrick-on-Shannon Decarbonising Zone (DZ) as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity action measures.

This Plan has been prepared in accordance with the **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021** and the **Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines** published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in March 2023, and has taken account of relevant national climate legislation and policy.

1.3. Focus of this Plan

This Plan assumes an organisational focus as well as a county-wide focus on climate action.

The Plan sets out how Leitrim County Council will be responsible for enhancing climate resilience, increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, across its own assets, services and infrastructure, to which it is fully accountable for, whilst also demonstrating a broader role of influencing, advocating and facilitating other sectors, to meet their own climate targets and ambitions. This is necessary to ensure that the environmental, social and economic benefits that come with climate action, can be fully realised. The inclusion of a Decarbonising Zone in Carrick-

on-Shannon will require the Council to augment its scope to achieve more ambitious outcomes in building and sustaining partnerships and cultivating community driven approach to climate action.

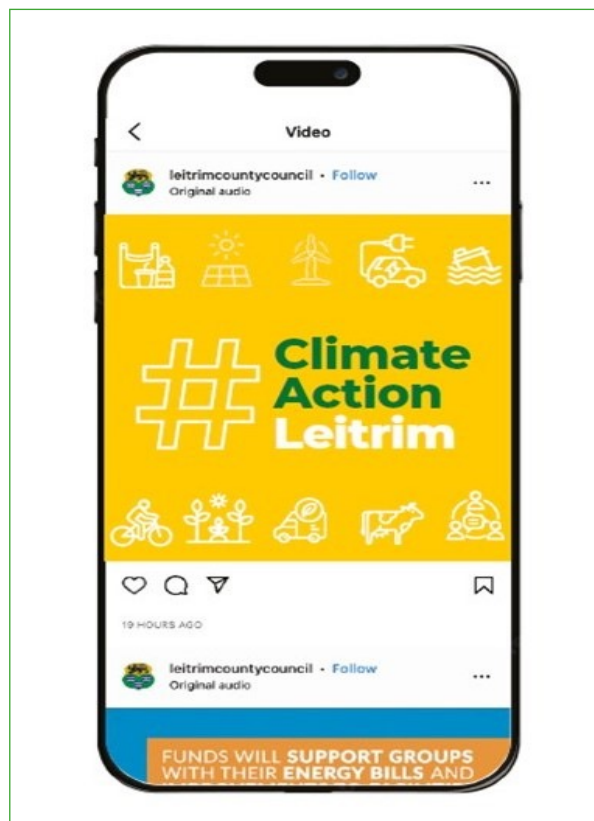


Figure 4 Public Engagement through Social Media

This presents an opportunity for Leitrim County Council to consider its role as a facilitator and an enabler in confronting the challenges of climate change. Leitrim County Council have a key role to play as an influencer within County Leitrim, working with the wider community and local businesses to

promote positive climate action. Leitrim County Council will work to influence, support and enable others to achieve their own targets and climate ambitions.

Sustainability has been defined by the United Nations (UN) as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability is regularly presented as a paradigm of overlapping dimensions of economic, social and environment (see Figure 5), though sustainability increasingly recognises balancing social and economic needs within the capacity of the natural world.



Figure 5 Overlapping Dimensions of Sustainability

1.4. Co-Benefits of climate action

The benefits of climate action extend far beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing climate risks, as depicted in **Figure 6**.

There are many health co-benefits associated with climate action. These include those of cleaner air, healthier diets, more active lifestyles, and increased exposure to green urban spaces. Access to urban green spaces provides benefits to mental health as well.

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Greater and improved resource efficiency - food, water, energy |
|  | Improved Air Quality |
|  | Job creation & New Skills |
|  | Improved Environmental Quality |
|  | Improved Health & Wellbeing |
|  | Resilient & Empowered communities |
|  | Enhanced Biodiversity |
|  | Improved access to public transport |
|  | Improved management of waste resources |

Figure 6 Co-benefits of pursuing climate action

Climate action that delivers co-benefits can help maximise opportunities to address multiple social, environmental and economic challenges and part of the role of delivering this Plan will be to glean positive effects. Leitrim County Council is committed to ensuring that this climate action plan works to derive as many co-benefits as possible.

1.5. Policy Context

Climate action is given impetus by the scientific evidence that supports findings of anthropogenic influence on climate change. In policy terms climate action is driven by the Paris Agreement of 2015 agreed at the Conference of the Parties (CoP 21) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**) which sets the framework for ambitious and strengthened policy relating to greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and provision of finance. The Paris Agreement sets the long-term goal of substantially reducing global greenhouse gas emission to limit the global increase in temperature this century.

The Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan is set within broader context of ensuing international, national and sectoral policy and legislation which are commensurate with the overall goal set out in the Paris Agreement (See **Figure 7**).

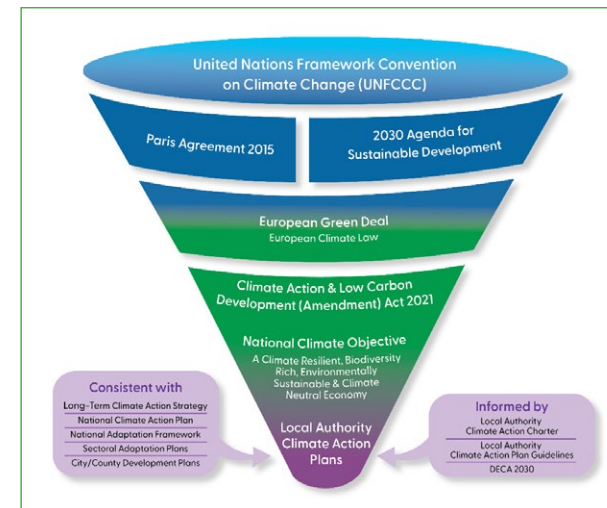


Figure 7 Legislation and Policy Context for Climate Action (source Climate Action Regional Offices)

1.5.1. International Climate Change Policy

It has been recognised that successfully tackling climate change requires cooperation and ambition on an international level. Since the establishment of the **UNFCCC** in 1994, countries have sought to build international cooperation to limit the increase in the average global temperature and deal with the impacts of climate change that result from these temperature increases.

These efforts led to the signing of the Paris Agreement 2015 at **COP21**. The **Paris Agreement 2015** is a legally binding international treaty on climate change and entered into force on 4 November 2016. There are two clearly defined goals in the Paris Agreement

that strives for progressive and ambitious climate action over time to avoid dangerous climate change by:

- (i) Holding global average temperature increases to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; and
- (ii) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience.

Another International agreement closely linked with the Paris Agreement is the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** which was adopted by UN Member States in September 2015. At the Agenda's core are **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. These goals aim to 'end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere.' The 17 SDGs contain 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. In 2019, World leaders called for a 'decade of action' to achieve the Goals within this timeframe.



Figure 8 Sustainable Development Goals

In December 2019, in line with Paris Agreement commitments, the European Commission, announced the **European Green Deal (EGD)** aimed

at making Europe the first climate neutral continent. The EGD seeks to achieve climate neutral net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, to decouple economic growth from resource use, and to leave no one behind. The EGD acknowledges the cross-cutting nature of climate change action, biodiversity protection and that delivery of targets in these areas will require mobilisation across different sectors. The EU introduced a set of proposals to align the EU's climate, taxation, energy and transport policies to support achieving this aim. **The European Climate Law** (June 2021) which made these targets legally binding also includes achieving a reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions of at least 55% by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050.

1.5.2. National Climate Change Policy

Climate change policy in Ireland now reflects the ambition of the EU and that required to confront the challenges of climate change. Working towards the National Climate Objective the **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021**, enacted on 23 July 2023 promotes a sustainable economy and society where greenhouse gas emissions are balanced or exceeded by the removal of greenhouse gases. Through progressive economy-wide carbon budgets, sectoral ceilings, a suite of strategies devised to promote a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures, as well as robust oversight and reporting arrangements, climate policy is working to scale up efforts across all of society and deliver a step change on ambitious and transformative climate action to 2030 and beyond to 2050. The Act sets out a target for a reduction in the

total amount of annual greenhouse gas emissions in the year 2030 of 51 % below the baseline year 2018.

The **Climate Action Plan 2023**, launched on 21 December 2022, is the second annual update to the national Climate Action Plan (building on the **2021 Plan**) and the first to be prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. It follows the introduction (in 2022) of economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emission ceilings that sets out a roadmap to 2025 towards taking decisive action to halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero, no later than by the end of 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government ('*Our Shared Future*').

Ireland published its first **National Adaptation Framework (NAF)** in 2018, which set out the context to ensure key sectors and local authorities, can assess the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change, implement climate resilient actions, and ensure climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into national, regional and local policy making.

Ireland's current **Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions** sets out indicative pathways, beyond 2030, towards achieving carbon neutrality for Ireland by 2050. The Strategy builds upon the decarbonisation pathways set by the carbon budgets, sectoral emissions ceilings and the national Climate Action Plan, to ensure coherent and effective climate policy. It is underpinned by analysis of transition options across each key sector of the economy and provides a crucial link between Ireland's 2030 climate targets and the long-term



goal set by Ireland's National Climate Objective and the European Climate Law.

Sectoral Climate Adaptation Plans have been published across Government departments, in response to the National Adaptation Framework. Each Plan identifies the key risks faced across the sector and the approach being taken to address these risks and build climate resilience for the future. They were developed applying a six-step adaptation planning process described in **Sectoral Planning Guidelines for Climate Change Adaptation**, published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The Plans address the following sectors: Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood, Biodiversity, Built and Archaeological Heritage, Transport infrastructure, Electricity and Gas Networks, Communications Networks, Flood Risk Management, Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure and Health.

The **Local Authority Climate Action Charter**, which was signed by Leitrim County Council (and all Local Authorities) in October 2019, represents a commitment to scale up efforts and play a key role locally and nationally in delivering effective climate action.

It tasks Local Authorities with providing robust leadership in advancing climate action, while adhering to the UN SDGs (in particular Goal 13 Climate Action) and reducing emissions from their own operations. In addition to collaborating or partnering with local enterprise, community groups, citizens as well as public, private and educational sectors on climate action initiatives.

Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 (**DECA 2030**) is the local government strategy on climate action published in April 2021. The strategy represents an overarching sectoral commitment to ensuring a coherent approach to climate action across the administrative and political structures of all 31 local authorities. At a sectoral level the strategy communicates a general strategic intent through an envisaged leadership position, to engage the local authority network in effective climate action. Within the sector, the overall strategy represents a top-level consensus on the approach to climate action and a strong commitment to the prescribed leadership role. The strategy is a stated roadmap for local authorities in delivering the required decarbonisation and adaptation responses to climate change.

There are six DECA 2030 shared strategic goals, and key objectives which are:

- **Goal 1:** Foster governance, leadership, and partnerships for climate action,
- **Goal 2:** Achieve our carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030 and 2050,
- **Goal 3:** Deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience,
- **Goal 4:** Mobilise climate action in local communities,
- **Goal 5:** Mobilise climate action in enterprise and support transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy, and
- **Goal 6:** Achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects.

1.5.3. Regional and Local Climate Change Policy

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act as amended places an obligation on all public bodies in so far as practicable to perform its functions in a manner consistent with the Climate Action Plan, National Long term Climate Action Strategy, National Adaptation Framework, Sectoral Adaptation Plans, National Climate Objective and any policies of the Minister or the Government on Climate Change to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act as amended specifically require each local authority to prepare and make a Climate Action Plan. This Climate Action Plan for Leitrim County Council sets out the mitigation and adaptation measures to be adopted for a period of 5 years (2024-2029). The Act requires the Plan to be in place within 12 months of a request from the Minister; by 24 February 2024 in the case of this Plan. Local authorities are required to, in respect to the content and preparation of a Local Authority Climate Action Plan, comply with **Ministerial Guidelines**, which were issued to the sector in March 2023.

The Plan provides a mechanism to help drive positive climate action for desired outcomes across the local authority and its administrative area, in a defined structure. It ensures alignment between on-the-ground actions and the high-level vision that the plan aspires to deliver, working with communities to build a vision for a climate neutral future. The Climate

Action Plan is part of longer-term efforts that will require a sustained and planned response to support the delivery of the National Climate Objective at local and community levels.

This Plan has been prepared in accordance with the **Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines**, published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in March 2023.

1.5.4. Community Climate Action Fund

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communication has recently launched the **Climate Action Fund Strand 1 - Building Low Carbon Communities**. This is a fund of €24 million for local authorities across the country, to support and build low carbon communities.

A further €3 million is being provided to support cross-border and All-Island community climate action initiatives. This funding is part of the Community Climate Action Programme, which aims to support communities to carry out climate action projects. Community projects eligible for this guidance and potential funding will address the following five themes (**Figure 9**):

- Home / energy
- Travel
- Food and waste
- Shopping and recycling
- Local climate and environmental action

This fund requires the appointment of a dedicated Community Climate Action Officer (CCAO) in each of the local authorities to guide and support communities from the very start. Leitrim County Council has appointed a CCAO to facilitate the administration of the allocation of this fund for County Leitrim.

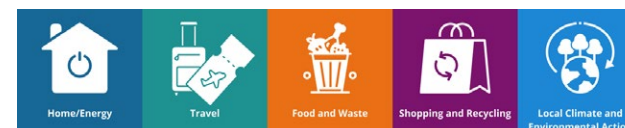


Figure 9 Themes of Community CAF

The actions included in this Climate Action Plan, aim to equip all citizens and other stakeholders, with the right information to make informed decisions, thereby assisting and empowering them to play their part in the County's transition to a low carbon and climate resilient region, together with the adjoining local authorities in the Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) region. By communicating effectively with citizens, businesses and other sectors about climate action, there is real opportunity to create long-term, positive behavioural change which will have a significant impact on reducing both greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change to 2030, 2050 and beyond.

In implementing and updating the Climate Action Plan into the future, strengthening existing networks and creating new climate action partnerships, will progressively inform and encourage all citizens, communities, and other stakeholders to have increased access to climate action information and advice. Interest areas could include the identification

and implementation of relevant energy efficiency measures, renewable energy actions, climate adaptation and resilience measures, access to funding sources such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland grant schemes, the Climate Action Fund, European Commission funding and others. Local authority efforts in citizen and stakeholder engagement will continue to be supported by the CAROs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Dialogue on Climate Action (NDCA), and other partners.

1.6. Accompanying Information

This Plan is informed and supported by robust evidence base with the most up-to-date scientific information, data on emissions, grounded risk and vulnerability assessments, stakeholder contributions and environmental assessments, to help shape and inform actions. Accompanying this Plan are a number of reports providing distinct elements of the evidence base and environmental assessments that have informed the plan.

This Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan should be read in conjunction with the following reports:

1. **Leitrim County Council Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)** provides an evidence base and assessment of Leitrim’s climate change risks and impacts on the delivery of services by Leitrim County Council.
2. **Baseline Emissions Inventory for County Leitrim** highlights the sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within the broader administrative area

of Leitrim County Council as well as emissions from sources within the full control of Leitrim County Council.

3. **Leitrim County Council Decarbonising Zone** identifies the source of GHG emissions from within the area around Carrick-on-Shannon, as the identified Decarbonising Zone within the County.
4. **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making. The Plan is accompanied by an SEA Environmental Report prepared for Leitrim County Council, in accordance with the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004 as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011) for Strategic Environmental Assessment.
5. **Appropriate Assessment (AA)**, Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) place an obligation on competent authorities to consider the effects of every plan and project on its own or in combination with other plans or projects on one or more European sites (Natura 2000 sites) through a process known as Appropriate Assessment. Natura sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and species. A formal process of Appropriate Assessment was carried out as part of the preparation of this plan. In accordance with

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, a Stage 2 **Natura Impact Report prepared for Leitrim County Council** accompanies this Plan.

1.7. Structure of this Plan

This Climate Action Plan has taken into full consideration international and national climate change policy and legislation, the most up-to-date knowledge on current characteristics of climate change as well as its impacts and projections for the future. The Plan has been developed in accordance with Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines and technical annexes. In showing the outcome of this process, this Climate Action Plan is set out in five sections:

Table 1 Structure of the Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Section Headings | Introduction |
| | Evidence-based Climate Action |
| | Framework of Climate Actions |
| | Carrick-On-Shannon Town Decarbonising Zone |
| | Implementation and Reporting |

Section 1 Introduction introduces the Plan (including the Vision and Mission) and highlights its context and purpose, scientific evidence, policy, legislation, supporting documents as well as the co-benefits of implementing this Plan.

Section 2 Evidence-based Climate Action

highlights the key findings of the evidence base developed to inform climate action. The evidence base includes climate change risk assessment and emissions baseline profile of County Leitrim and of Leitrim County Council as well as contributions by stakeholders.

Section 3 Framework of Climate Actions outlines the framework for climate action strategic goals, environmental governance, objectives, themes and actions.

Section 4 Carrick-On-Shannon Town Decarbonising Zone focuses on Carrick-On-Shannon Town as the selected Decarbonising Zone (DZ) including the vision for the area, strategic priority areas, register of opportunities and actions.

Section 5 Implementation and Reporting sets out Leitrim County Council approach to implementing actions, measuring progress, the use of metrics as well as how the Council will report on actions over the lifetime of the Plan.

1.7.1. Climate Change and Climate Action Terminology

It is useful to reference the Government of Ireland **Climate Jargon Buster** (An A-Z plain English guide to climate action terms), as regards explaining terms related to climate change and climate action that appear in the Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan.



2. Evidence-based Climate Action

This section presents both the adaptation and mitigation evidence that forms the basis of Leitrim County Council's Climate Action Plan: the County's climate vulnerability and risk assessment and the greenhouse gas emissions inventory. It also includes information on stakeholder engagement that has helped inform and shape the Plan.

2.1. Context for Climate Action in County Leitrim

Leitrim is 26 of 32 counties by area in Ireland (21 of 26 counties in the Republic) and the smallest by population. It is the smallest of Connacht's five counties in both size and population. County Leitrim is bordered by the counties of Donegal to the north, Fermanagh to the north-east, Cavan to the east, Longford to the south, Roscommon to the south-west and Sligo to the west. Fermanagh is in Northern Ireland while all the other neighbouring counties are within the Republic of Ireland. County Leitrim is located within the Eastern and Midlands CARO administrative area.

County Leitrim has a dramatic hilly and mountainous landscape in its northwest and is relatively flat in the southeast. Lough Allen divides the middle of the county. It is an unspoiled, tranquil area of great natural beauty, consisting of lofty mountains, deep

valleys, pastures, lakes, rolling hills and rivers. The extreme northwest of County Leitrim has a short **Atlantic coastline** (4.6km long) between Sligo and Donegal.

Reflective of the county's rural nature and historic economic trends, *'agriculture, forestry and fishing'* industry sector is particularly strong, employing 7.2% of the working population in County Leitrim, compared to a national average of 4%. County Leitrim is a very rural county with a diverse range of farming activity. The structure of farming in County Leitrim is characterised by small-scale farms with low economic potential and asset value due to the poor quality of soils, fragmentation and scale. The land area farmed in the county is 89,719 hectares made up of 3,656 no. farms with an average size of 25.5 hectares. Approximately 49.3% of farms are less than 20 hectares in size with only 8.4% being larger than 50 hectares in size. Enterprises with higher potential returns such as dairy farming have declined. There is significant dependence on lower income systems such as the production and sale of weanlings in the cattle sector and store lambs from hill farms in the sheep sector.

The average disposable income per person living in County Leitrim was €20,885 (CSO, County Incomes and Regional GDP). The main industries of employment within the region include Services (73%), Industry & Construction (19.8%), and Agriculture / Forestry / Fishing (7.2%) (CSO, 2022)

County Leitrim covers an area approximately 1,590 km² and has a recorded population of 32,044 from the 2016 Census (89% reside in rural areas). County Leitrim has a network of attractive towns and villages, with varied landscapes and a high-quality natural environment with rich and varied natural and built heritage.

Geographically, County Leitrim can be divided into north and south, generally separated at Lough Allen. The north of the County is characterised by mountains, expansive lakes and deep glacial valleys which forms a spectacularly scenic landscape, while the south of the County is characterised by a drumlin belt interspersed with small lakes and rolling hillocks. The River Shannon with its lake systems forms the southwest boundary with Co. Roscommon whilst Donegal Bay marks the northern boundary of County Leitrim along its 4.6 km long coastline.

Leitrim County Council Housing Strategy 2022-2028 forecasts a population increase of 3,000 in County Leitrim. This in turn indicates a total projected population of 38,200 in 2028 and a total estimated housing requirement for County Leitrim of 1,028 units over the Plan period 2022-2028, the equivalent of 172 units per annum.

Leitrim County Council recognises that the demands of the local economy and the growing demographic profile need to align with requirements to plan sustainably by putting in place sustainable development strategies and actively planning for and investing in the transition to a low carbon climate resilient society and economy.

To prepare for its future growth, County Leitrim is already investing in renewable energy resources, upgrading its infrastructure and piloting sustainable living projects.

2.2. Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)

One dimension of climate action is to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit the impact of

warming global temperatures. (mitigation). The second dimension is to prepare places, people, and nature to be ready to adapt for the unavoidable effects of climate change (adaptation). This includes understanding risks and opportunities from climate change for business, infrastructure, housing, and the natural environment. There is a need to prepare the Council's services to deliver for the needs of the community as weather patterns change.

The aim of adaptation planning is to reduce the risks posed by climate change for County Leitrim and increase its resilience. Climate Change Risk Assessments (CCRA) identify the likelihood of future climate hazards and their potential impacts. This will inform the prioritisation of climate action and investment in climate action.

Understanding the risks posed by climate at the local level is an essential first step for Leitrim County Council to develop effective and efficient adaptation actions in response to current and projected climate change.

A qualitative CCRA was undertaken as part of this Plan to support the identification and prioritisation of potential future climate risks and to help identify

where adaptation actions could be required. The approach was built on two phases, where both current and future risks and impacts were assessed. Refer to the Climate Change Risk Assessment that accompanies this Plan (Refer to **Section 1.6** of this Plan for supporting information).

2.2.1. Key Findings (Observed)

In line with the climate trends of Ireland, County Leitrim is experiencing increasing temperatures and changing patterns of rainfall. These changes are projected to continue and intensify with a wide range of impacts for County Leitrim and Leitrim County Council in provision of services.

For the period 1985 to 2022, County Leitrim has been affected most frequently by severe windstorms and flooding events (river flooding - fluvial and surface water flooding - pluvial). Heatwaves have also had significant impacts on County Leitrim with increased demand for water supplies, impact on integrity of road surfaces and the increased frequency of uncontrolled fires with increased demand for Fire Services. Snowfall and freezing events when they occurred, resulted in disruption of transportation, energy, and water supply networks across County Leitrim.

The frequency of identified extreme weather events experienced in County Leitrim from 2006-2022 is shown here in **Figure 10**, as well as a summary of key climate and weather-related changes and hazards already observed in **Figure 11**. Examples of impacts from severe weather events in County Leitrim are as examined in the CCRA Report (See **Section 1.6** on supporting documents to the Climate Action Plan).

Table 2 Examples of impacts from severe weather events in County Leitrim

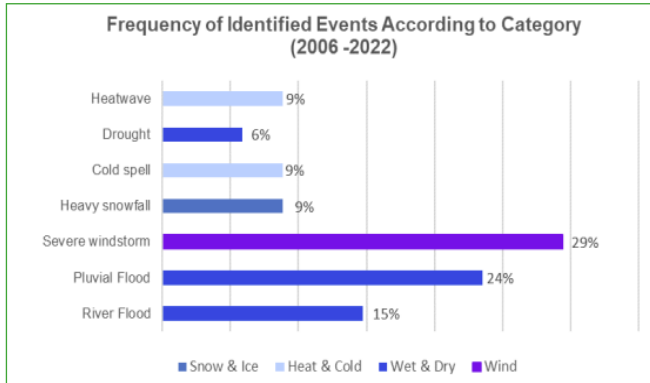


Figure 10 Frequency of identified extreme weather events in County Leitrim 2006 – 2022 according to category.

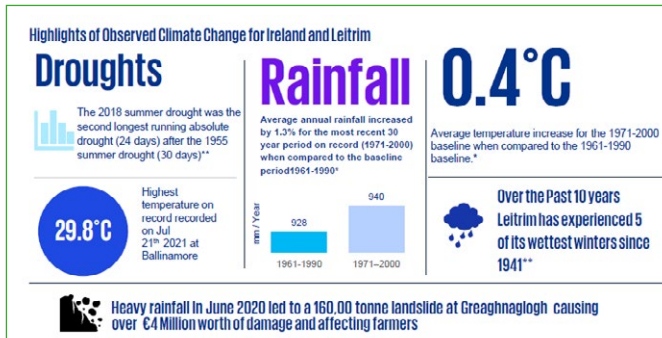


Figure 11 Observed Climate Change for County Leitrim and Ireland



SURFACE WATER FLOODING

August 2021: Heavy rainfall led to flooding Flash flooding arising from heavy rainfall caused damage to the Ballinaglera bridge, requiring repair works costing €150,000



EXTREME HEAT (Summer 2021):

A temperature of 29.80C was recorded at Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim in July 2021. High temperatures have resulted in localised damage to road surfaces (tar and chip) across the County. In 2019, County Leitrim fire services were called out to 12 wildfires, followed by 57 in 2020 and 18 in 2021.



WIND

(STORM BARRA December 2021) brought power outages to homes throughout the county, with communities in Manorhamilton and Arigna being primarily affected.

(STORM HANNAH April 2019) the ESB reported that over 600 houses were left without power across the county.



HEAVY RAINFALL:

In June 2020, heavy rainfall led to a major landslide where 160,000 tonnes of peatland 'slipped' at Greaghmagh. This covered 43ha of land with debris, affecting 12 farmers, and blocked local roads including that over the Dawn of Hope bridge. The cost of removal was estimated at between €3-4 million, with remedial works at €1.4-2.7 million.



FLOODING:








In February 2020 heavy rainfall led to the River Shannon bursting its banks, topping quay walls and flooding Leitrim village and Carrick-on-Shannon. Over 6,000 acres of farmland along the Shannon were underwater with flooding reaching levels close to record highs observed in 2015-2016.

2.2.2. CCRA Key Findings (Projected)

In line with global and national projections of climate change, the climate of County Leitrim is projected to change. The frequency of heatwaves, droughts and flooding are expected to increase while projections indicate a decrease in the frequency of cold spells and heavy snowfall.

As a result of climate change, the frequency of extreme weather events is projected to change. For County Leitrim, this means that some hazards may occur more often while others may reduce. Below Table 3 is an overview of projected changes in the frequency of climate hazards for County Leitrim by 2050.

Table 3 Climate Projections for County Leitrim

| HAZARD PROJECTED CHANGE IN FREQUENCY | CLIMATE PROJECTIONS |
|--|---|
| Heatwaves Increase  | Projections indicate an overall increase in average temperature of between 1.1 and 1.6°C for County Leitrim. Under a high emission scenario, projections indicate that heatwaves will become more frequent by mid- century and on an almost annual basis for some parts of County Leitrim. |
| Droughts Increase   | Summer rainfall is expected to reduce in the future when compared with the baseline period of 1981 to 2000, contributing to a potential increase in frequency of drought conditions. Heatwaves and droughts have resulted in damage to road surfaces across County Leitrim, contributed to the development of uncontrolled fires and the imposition of restrictions on water supply. Projected increases in the frequency of heatwaves and in the frequency of drought conditions will mean that events currently experienced on an infrequent basis will become more frequent. As the populations ages, there will also be an increase in the number of vulnerable people exposed. |
| Cold Spell Decrease  | Because of the increasing temperatures, a decrease in the number of frost days, ice days, and snowfall is projected for the period 2041-2060 when compared with the baseline period of 1981 to 2000. |
| Heavy Snowfall Decrease  | The annual snowfall in the region is projected to decrease substantially by the middle of the century. |
| Severe Wind-storms No Change  | Projections of storms are subject to a high level of uncertainty. By mid-century, projections indicate that average wind speed will remain like those currently experienced. However, some projections indicate an increase in the frequency of the most intense storms which are currently rare events |
| Flooding Increase  | Recent experiences of river flooding and pluvial flooding events in 2020, 2021 and 2022 demonstrate the impacts for County Leitrim including damage to bridge infrastructure, inundation of buildings and transport disruption. Projected increases in the frequency of extreme precipitation events will result in increased surface water and river ne flood risk for County Leitrim. |

2.2.3. Future Climate Risks

In determining future climate risks for County Leitrim, projected changes in the frequency of climate hazards are assessed in combination with projected changes in socio-economic development and population change. The population of County Leitrim is expected to continue to grow into the future. As a result, an increasing population will be exposed to climate hazards resulting in a growing level of impact on County Leitrim both in terms of people affected and the economic value of damages created.

County Leitrim's population is expected to increase to 38,000 by 2031 with an expected population increase for Carrick-on-Shannon of 30% between 2016 and 2040. An additional 1,028 housing units are required by 2028.

As a result, projections of future climate risk, projected changes in the frequency and severity of climate hazards are considered in combination with projected changes in population and socio-economic development.

2.2.4. Building Resilience through Adaptation

County Leitrim and Leitrim County Council are already experiencing a range of climate impacts, including extremes in heat waves / drought and flooding, but in the future, these are expected to become more frequent and severe, alongside the likely consequences which include water shortages and impacts to water quality, damage to property and infrastructure and impacts on degradation on the natural environment, habitats and biodiversity.

Building resilience through adaptation measures is especially important when acting against future

climate change and must be considered alongside actions to reduce carbon emissions across the county.

Our aim is to give priority focus to appropriate adaptation measures that will help ensure Leitrim County Council's services remain resilient and that communities can be protected from the negative impacts of climate change.

- Ensure sustained services delivery of core Council functions by incorporating climate considerations and preparedness into emergency and service delivery planning.
- Ensure all core Council services are adaptable to a changing climate.
- Ensure adaptation to climate change is mainstreamed and has a strong foundation in local level policies of Leitrim County Council.

Table 4 Projected future Climate Risks in County Leitrim

| CLIMATE RISKS | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Flooding | Heatwaves / Drought | Windstorms | Cold / Snow |
| <p>The risk of existing hazards such as river, surface water is likely to increase as hazard events occur more frequently and increase number of assets are exposed to these events.</p> <p>The future impact and frequency of groundwater flooding is also unchanged, meaning the future risk remains low.</p> | <p>Expected to occur more frequently and with potential for a greater impact on County Leitrim than experienced currently, as an increasing proportion of the population will be elderly, who are less able to cope with heatwave and drought conditions</p> | <p>Although the frequency and impact of severe windstorms is thought to be unchanged in the future, these events will remain a risk for County Leitrim.</p> | <p>The impact of heavy snowfall and cold spells on County Leitrim remains constant, however, due to the potential decrease in hazard frequency, the overall risk of these hazards is likely to reduce in the future, resulting in less risk.</p> |

- Manage and reduce risk of flooding to properties and infrastructure around the county.
- Understand by way of continuous review of data and information, the current and future impacts of extreme weather events and climate change.
- Promote natural and nature-based solutions (NBS) to help build resilience.
- Support and create climate awareness and resilience in communities and business.

2.3. County Leitrim Emissions Profile

In so far as possible, it is important that this Climate Action Plan plays a role in promoting emission reductions across the broader geographical area of County Leitrim. To effectively influence, coordinate, facilitate and advocate climate mitigation and support the delivery of emission reductions across the various sectors, an effective evidence-base is required. A countywide climate mitigation assessment gives a ‘snapshot in time’ of sectoral emissions and is used to inform actions that Leitrim County Council can prioritise to support, facilitate and enable other actors to deliver their own emission targets.

A tier 2 ‘bottom-up’ assessment was undertaken to explore the impact of sectors identified as part of the National Emissions Inventory, in County Leitrim.

These included;

- Residential
- Commercial & Industrial
- Agriculture
- Transport

- Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry (LULUCF)
- Waste and Wastewater

Please refer to the tier 2 assessment BEI that accompanies this Climate Action Plan for more detail (See **Section 1.6** on supporting documents to this Plan). Refer to **Figure 12** for a breakdown of emissions by sector, key emission sectors by including:

- Agriculture Sector
- Transport Sector
- Residential Sector
- Commercial and Industrial Sector

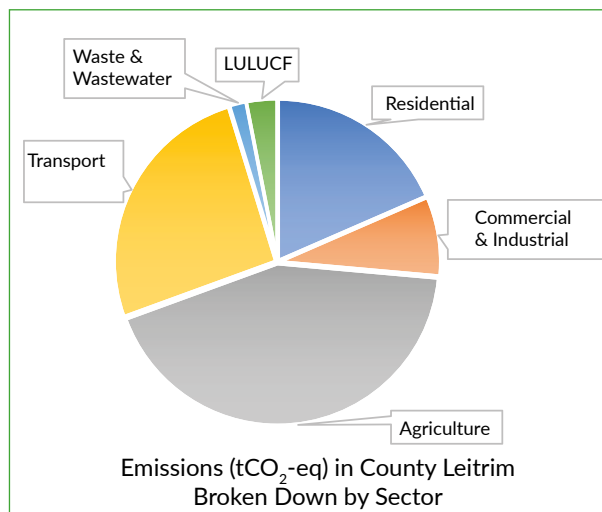


Figure 12 County Leitrim BEI – Key findings (overall emissions for county)

2.3.1. Emission Sources by Sector

Agriculture: As the highest sector of emissions in County Leitrim, it is the emissions from cattle (mainly suckler cattle farming) that contribute the most in terms of livestock related emissions. Cattle produce much more methane emissions than sheep, and due to the higher global warming potential of methane, their impact is much larger on the environment.

Transport: As the second highest emitter, over half of transport emissions can be attributed to private car use at 53%. Goods vehicles account for 39%; of these only 2.3 % of carbon emissions are associated with public transport. These results reflect the transport modes used within the County and the dependency on the use of the private car. Private cars account for most of the mileage travelled in the County, followed by goods vehicles and tractors and machinery. This reflects the rural nature of County Leitrim, the lack of public transportation and the size of the haulage industry in the County. There is a relatively small public transport sector in the County, due to the rural nature and having a sparse, dispersed population, compared to counties that have a greater population density and more urban settlement.

Residential: A total of 12,263 dwellings were recorded in County Leitrim accounting for 18% of the County total emissions. The types of dwelling are detached (9,060) semi-detached (1,983) terraced (731) and apartments (489). The prevalence of detached housing reflects the level of one-off housing in rural parts of the County. These tend to be larger than average dwellings with higher level of space heating requirements and heat loss associated.

The results show that oil and electricity are the main sources of emissions within residential properties at 66% and 19% with natural gas use equating to 8% of emissions. A total of 7% of residential emissions originate from coal and peat use.

- Heating oil is the primary source of main space heating fuel in the County at 66% (heating oil generates a higher level of emissions per unit of energy compared to the combustion of many other heating fuels such as gas).
- 8% of dwellings use gas as a main heating fuel mainly in semi-detached and terraced dwellings.
- Electricity at 19% is the primary source of main space heating fuel in the County for apartments.
- Solid fuels at 7% represent the lowest fuel use for main space heating in the county.

Commercial and Industry: The level of commercial and industrial emissions is relatively low at 8%, in comparison to other counties. From an analysis of uses it is observed that vast majority of emissions from this sector come from quarries and industries involved in aggregate and concrete production and the construction sector.

2.4. Leitrim County Council Emissions Profile

Leitrim County Council is responsible for, and has control over, the types of energy used in the buildings occupied for service delivery and performance of functions, local authority fleet, as well as the public lighting within the administrative area.

Leitrim County Council Energy consumption for the Year 2018 is summarised in **Figure 13** with Transport use the largest energy consumer at (38%), Public lighting accounts for (35%) and Electricity and heating of buildings is responsible for (27%).

The carbon emissions produced by Leitrim County Council are summarised in **Figure 13**, with electricity use the largest source of carbon emissions (63%), transport (32%) and Thermal and heating of buildings is responsible for (5%).

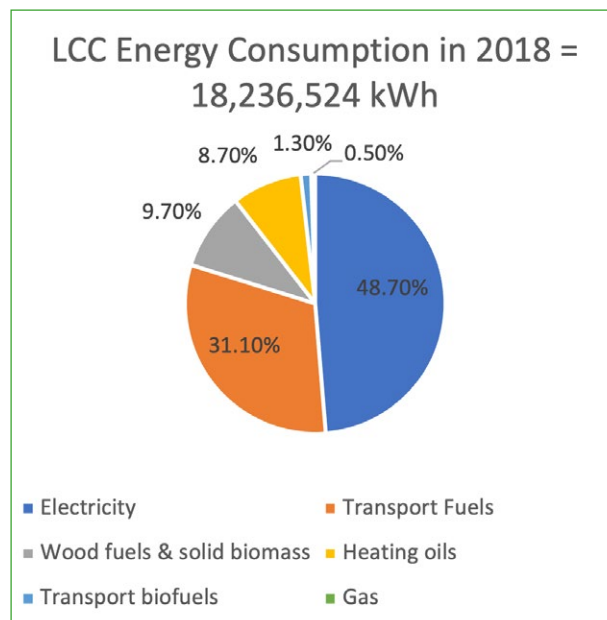


Figure 13 Leitrim County Council Energy Consumption for the baseline year 2018

Energy related emissions CO2 2018

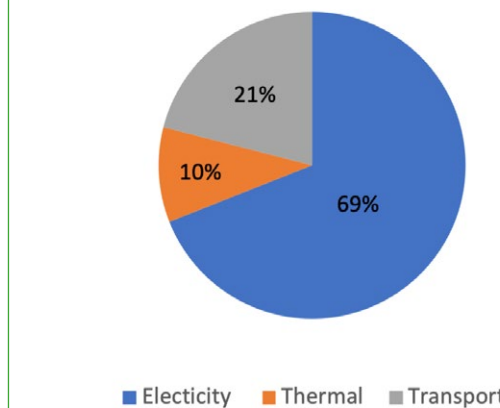


Figure 14 Leitrim County Council Carbon Emissions 2018 (Electricity, Heat and Transport)

2.5. Emission Reduction Opportunities

The mitigation assessment provides valuable information to inform relevant and targeted actions by Leitrim County Council to reduce emissions within the Council and across the County. Possible actions that will support emissions reductions are identified in **Table 5**.

These opportunities are expanded upon within the themes for actions in **Section 3.3.2** within actions outlined in tables in **Section 3** Framework of Climate Actions (**Table 7, Table 8, Table 9, Table 10, Table 11**) and Section 4 Carrick-On-Shannon Town Decarbonising Zone (**Table 14, Table 15, Table 16, Table 17, Table 18, Table 19**).

Table 5 Emission Reduction Opportunities – Council & County

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <p>BUILDINGS</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the retrofitting of public and private buildings. • Encourage a switch to green energy sources within the social housing stock, for which Leitrim County Council is responsible. • Leverage the Council's leadership role within the community to influence residents to switch to lower greenhouse gas emitting energy sources within their homes. • Promote and enabling micro renewables, including uptake of rooftop Solar PV. • Raise awareness amongst the community of greener energy sources and funding streams available. |
| <p>ROAD TRANSPORT</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve modal switch options, thereby reducing the amount of private car use by improving availability and access to public transport options. • Increase the use of active travel, such as walking and cycling, by providing suitable infrastructure. • Enable and facilitate EV infrastructure required to support electrification of vehicles. • Raise awareness and incentivise alternative modes of transport. • Facilitate and develop remote working hubs / centres to reduce commuting patterns. |
| <p>GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance biodiversity, ecosystems and habitats. • Plan, design, develop and integrate high quality green spaces. • Plant and maintain trees in urban areas. • Promote, protect and restore carbon rich habitats. |
| <p>JUST TRANSITION</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all decarbonisation activities reach all residents and businesses equitably. • Harness the co-benefits of decarbonising activities for communities. • Target energy poverty as a means to promote fuel switching initiatives. • Raise awareness of grants available, smart metering, energy saving measures. • Provide for inclusive infrastructure and systems for all. |
| <p>COUNCIL ACTIONS</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decarbonising Leitrim County Council's own assets and activities through retrofitting, switching fossil fuel heating sources to heat pumps. • Decarbonise Leitrim County Council's own fleet to electric and alternative fuels as appropriate. • Engage with digitalisation and new technologies. • Work with neighbouring local authorities to advance projects to funding and delivery. • Develop implementation plans and strategies for finance. |

2.6. Stakeholder Engagement

Local authorities have significant experience in engaging citizens and stakeholders, through their existing functions, including land-use planning, housing, enterprise, transport, and environmental awareness. Local authorities are also engaged in existing public participation structures and approaches that are bottom-up, community centred and are outcome focused. These include Public Participation Networks (PPN), Local Community Development Committees (LCDC), Tidy Towns, Age Friendly Ireland, Sports partnerships, Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) and a range of other programmes and initiatives.

The urgency in addressing the issue of climate change has permeated throughout these organisations who are now making significant progress in incorporating climate action into their goals, plans, activities and dialogue.

The Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028 identifies Climate Action as a high-level goal. The challenges of climate change which are far reaching across society, are not defined by spatial boundaries and therefore require holistic and collective responses. Engagement and participation by citizens and stakeholders in climate decisions and measures that involve them is considered very important. This ensures climate action positively and equitably influence the choices they make.

Delivering on our climate ambition requires the Government and Citizens of Ireland to come together in a strengthened '*social contract*' for climate action

and the co-creation of real solutions to climate change, that are meaningful, inclusive, fair, and accessible for all, thereby prioritising a Just Transition.

In partnership with the CAROs and the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASTNG), climate action training continues to be rolled out for the entire local authority sector including Elected Members (EMs), to empower and upskill staff to act as leaders on climate action. To date circa 50% of staff in Leitrim County Council have been trained in various pillars of climate action training, with future training requirements being assessed on a continuous basis. The Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) has also organised training events and an accredited training course for Elected Members.

Leitrim County Council has also organised workshops for local community groups through the Leitrim PPN. At a school level, the Council's Environmental Awareness Officer & Green Schools coordinators work closely with the An Taisce Green Schools programme, to continue awareness activities and Green Flag awards in both primary and post-primary schools. An Taisce has also developed new resources for teachers on climate action, to overlap with teaching curriculums.

Leitrim County Council will be administering a Community Climate Action Fund for projects to foster a transition to low carbon communities and for a Shared Island approach on the transition journey (see **Section 1.5.4** for details on the Community Climate Action Fund).

In 2022, Leitrim County Council continued to support citizen and stakeholder engagement initiatives, including the Government's National Dialogue on Climate Action (NDCA), in particular local 'Climate Conversations' led by the Public Participation Network (PPN). The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act as amended recognise the PPN as a key network to consult regarding climate action and the Council has engaged with the PPN in the public consultation of the Climate Action Plan.

Cumulatively, evidence from the 2022 NDCA programme suggests that there is a high level of awareness of climate change among the Irish people, and they want to get involved in climate action. The findings of the 2022 engagement programme have also shown that there is a willingness to engage in climate action, but people may not know which actions are most effective or where to start acting. Further enabling citizen and stakeholder engagement can make it possible to realise the opportunities that a transition to a carbon-neutral society and economy presents, such as new sustainable careers, warmer more energy-efficient homes, better travel options, more sustainable consumer choice, integrated spatial planning, cleaner air and water and a better environment for future generations.

Figure 15 summarises some of the needs of participants in online '*Climate Conversations*', as part of the National Climate Dialogue. It clearly shows that Leitrim County Council have an important role to play in enabling citizens to engage in climate action, through the services we provide.

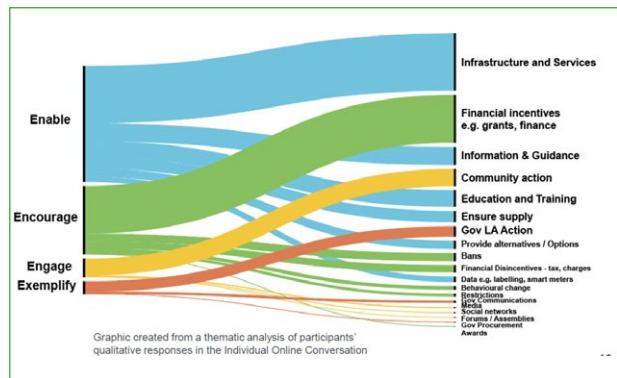


Figure 15 Summary of findings of the 'Climate Conversations' online responses

It is expected that this Plan and the Actions will be welcomed and supported by the majority of the population in County Leitrim, where opinions indicate a high percentage (76%) of people in the County say that climate change should be a high or very high priority for the Government of Ireland, (reference EPA Climate Change in the Irish Mind 2021)

2.6.1. Awareness of Local Authority Climate Action

A nationwide survey was conducted on behalf of LGMA on over 2,000 participants over a range of age groups in summer 2023 as regards public awareness of Local Authority involvement on climate actions. Participants were asked for their awareness on Local Authority involvement on a range of climate action areas, results outlined in **Figure 16**. The public held greatest awareness of Local Authority involvement as regards emergency response to severe weather and flood and coastal management and lowest awareness on green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

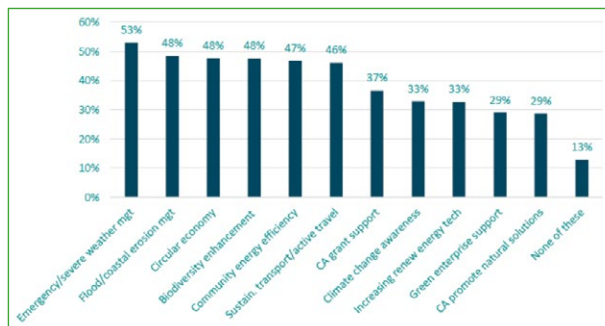


Figure 16 Awareness of Local Authority Climate Action Work

In contrast participants were asked for the areas of climate action where Local Authorities should be giving more priority to, results are outlined in **Figure 17**. Biodiversity was considered the area of greatest importance followed by energy efficiency and sustainable transport.

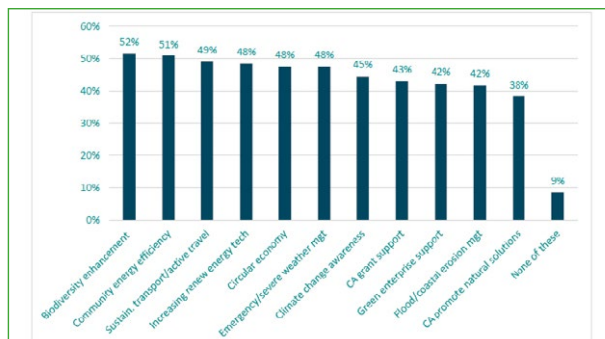


Figure 17 Initiatives local authority should have greater involvement

Participants were also gauged on communication platforms most appropriate for communicating on climate action in which the Local Authority is engaged, traditional media such as newspapers as well as social media and targeted public engagement through meetings and newsletters all scored highly with participants.

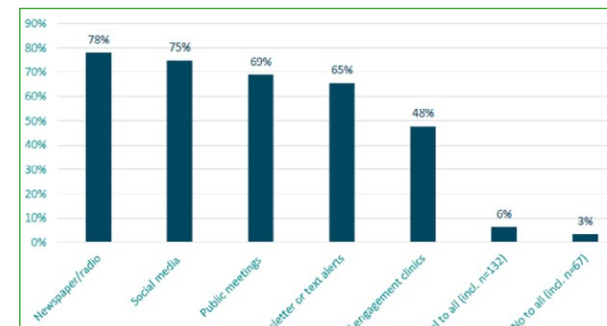


Figure 18 Appropriate channels of communicating about climate action

LGMA also engaged eight national focus groups in summer 2023 around awareness amongst the public about the work being done by Local Authorities on climate action. The main themes addressed were

- Coastal erosion / fluvial issues
- Planning for extreme weather events
- Reducing emissions
- Biodiversity
- Waste management

There was good knowledge and enthusiasm among participants to support local authority efforts and a recognition that the responsibility for climate action does not rest solely with the Local Authority.

There is a strong interest in information about positive climate stories and sharing of information on place-based local climate initiatives and being able to compare the performance of their Local Authority against national standards. In relation to preferred communication channels, groups were open to a mix of traditional and digital media channels, though traditional channels were favoured.

Groups were open to face-to-face engagement to showcase the work of the Local Authority and community groups for information purposes and to give opportunities for more participation in climate action. There was clear feedback that Local Authorities can do more to promote climate action through website, print media and social media, newsletters / bulletins.

2.7. Pre-Draft Stakeholder Engagement

The pre-draft stakeholder engagement public consultation period to shape the Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) for County Leitrim ran from the 21 June to the 19 July 2023 (later extended to 16 August 2023). Below sections detail the stakeholder engagement process around the pre-draft public consultation period.

2.7.1. Pre-Draft Consultations

The preparation of the Climate Action Plan involved ongoing liaison and engagement with the Eastern and Midlands CARO, Sub Regional Groupings, neighbouring Local Authorities and participation in training and networking events available. A number of briefings were held with stakeholder groups informing them of the requirement for a Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan and the public engagement pre-draft process.

A presentation of the Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) for County Leitrim and the DZ and the Climate Action Plan process was made to Elected Members

on 16 June 2023 through the Strategic Policy Committee for *Climate Action and Agriculture* ahead of opening up the public consultation period. A presentation was made to the Full Council of Elected Members on 3 July 2023.

There were 4 events carried out as part of pre-draft consultation that included Leitrim Sustainable Farming Group (25 May 2023), Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) (31 May 2023), Manorhamilton Town Meeting (29 June 2023), and Carrick-on-Shannon Town Meeting (6 July 2023). The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) advertised the public consultation pre-draft phase in its July Newsletter.

There was targeted engagement with Leitrim PPN on the pre-draft Climate Action Plan engagement through sessions on 24 May 2023 and 12 July 2023. Further sessions were organised in partnership with Leitrim PPN to target youth groups and vulnerable groups including; *Comhairle na nÓg*, the *Age Friendly programme*, *Integration and Culture and Creative* team, and the climate action group *Good Energy Alliance Ireland* (GEAI) (briefings on 24 May 2023, 19 June 2023, 12 July 2023, 16 August 2023).

2.7.2. Press & Media for Public Consultation

The pre-draft public consultation phase was advertised in the Leitrim Observer edition 21 June 2023. An **interview** was conducted on Shannonside FM Radio in July 2023. There was an information page on the Leitrim County Council website and various social media posts on the Council's social media channels.



Figure 19 Example of Leitrim County Council social media advert relating to the public about how to make a submission.

An information page was placed on the Leitrim County Council website which highlighted the importance of the LACAP for County Leitrim. The page also highlighted the main stages of the development of the LACAP. The web page outlined how members of the public would be able to make submissions for the LACAP as outlined above.

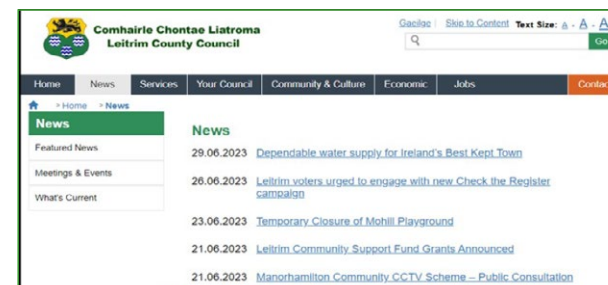


Figure 20 Screen shot of Leitrim County Council website 'News page'.

During the public consultation period social media posts were sent out on the various council social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, inviting the public to have their say.

2.7.3. Pre-draft Stage Outcomes of Public Consultation

The public were invited to have their say by taking part in an online survey or sending in a written submission by email / post. A total of 69 members of the public took part in the online survey while 5 detailed written submissions were received over the consultation period. The main topics raised are summarised in **Figure 21**.



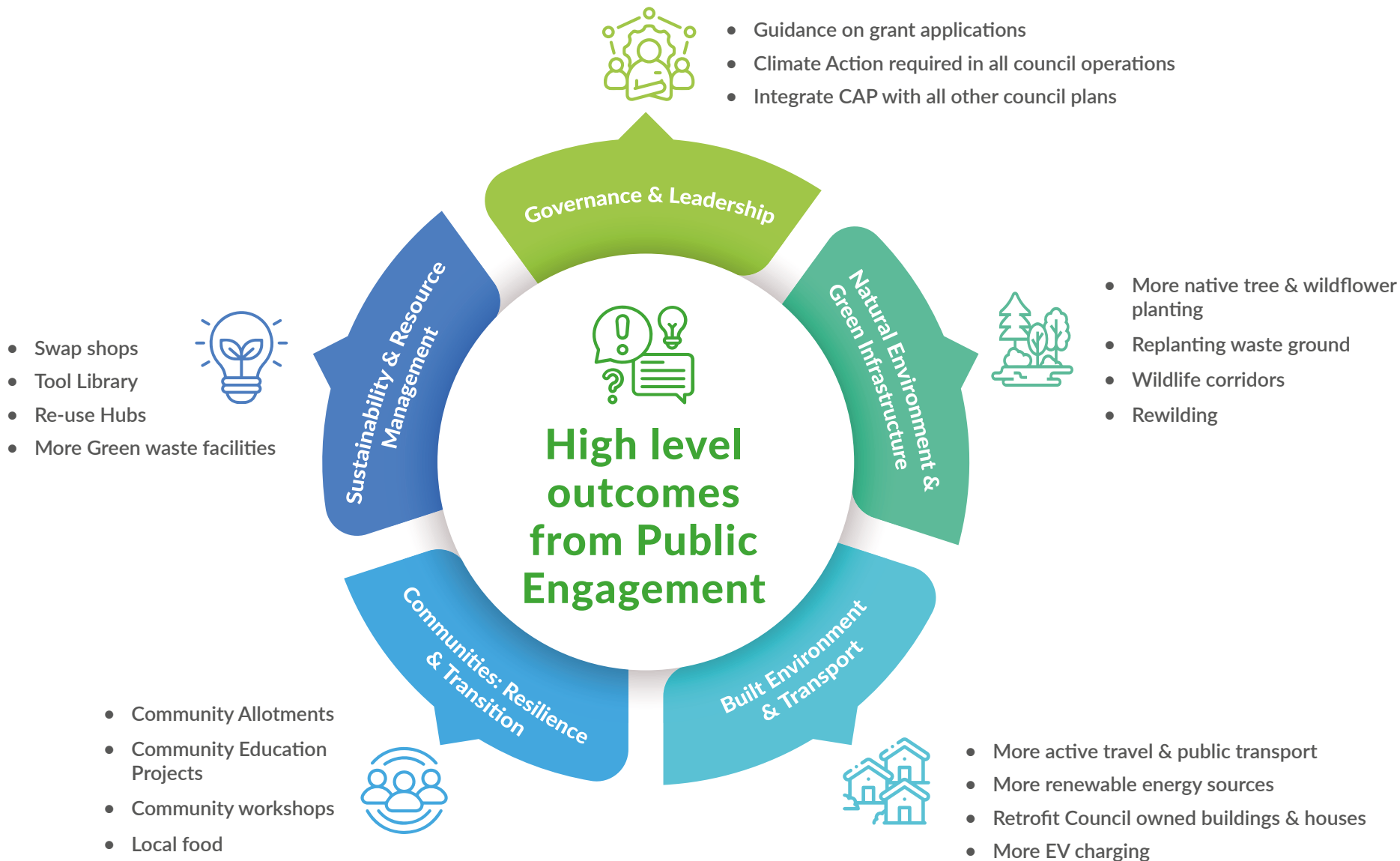


Figure 21 Outcomes from Public Engagement

3. Framework of Climate Actions

Actions contained within this Plan will be delivered within and as part of a framework to ensure effective and successful delivery of outcomes. Actions prioritised as part of this framework are designed to reduce emissions from Leitrim County Council's own assets and operations, influence relevant sectors in the delivery of their own emission reductions, and to raise awareness of climate change and promote positive climate action at community level.

The framework configures the arrangement of climate actions within a defined structure ensuring alignment between potential on the ground actions and the overarching vision that the Plan aspires to deliver.

Figure 22 identifies the framework from Plan vision to actions.



Figure 22 Framework of climate actions in Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan



3.1. Cross cutting considerations

There are a number of cross cutting considerations built in as part of the framework of climate actions of this Plan.

Table 6 Cross Cutting Considerations of Framework Actions

| ACTION FOCUS & PRIORITISATION | PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION | JUST TRANSITION & FAIRNESS | MAXIMISING CO-BENEFITS |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Actions of this plan have been identified based on their likelihood to help deliver on climate obligations of reducing emissions and building resilience.</p> <p>Actions & projects will be prioritised based on their positive climate impact, the multiple co-benefits they accrue and value for money, in that context.</p> <p>The Council will take an evidence-based approach to assessing options and decision making to support the implementation of climate actions.</p> <p>Multiple funding / grant sources will be used to implement actions and projects.</p> | <p>This plan will operate on the model of collaborative climate action.</p> <p>Implementing actions of this plan will require engagement, collaboration and partnership with a broad range of stakeholders from Government to community level, to deliver on climate action.</p> <p>This plan will promote and harness ideas, knowledge and collective enthusiasm of stakeholders.</p> <p>This plan supports research partnerships with Third level educational colleges and universities and wider national and international research organisations.</p> | <p>This plan upholds the principles of climate justice and fairness i.e. Just Transition.</p> <p>This plan will ensure that the people in County Leitrim who are most vulnerable and have the lowest capacity to engage with climate action are targeted and supported.</p> <p>The Council is committed to monitoring and identifying the needs and deficiencies of communities and to giving a voice and support to enable communities to advance in their understanding and address the challenges.</p> <p>Strive to provide easy to understand climate information, to educate and advocate about the need to engage with climate action.</p> | <p>The Council's approach to sustainable climate neutrality maintains an ambition to identify and realise multiple co-benefits where possible.</p> <p>Co-benefits targeted will strive to optimise protection and enhancement of the natural environment to improve health and wellbeing outcomes as well as support for a clean and green local economy.</p> |

3.2. Alignment with Policy / Commitments

This Climate Action Plan, in so far as is practicable, is consistent with the most recently approved national Climate Action Plan (CAP23) and National Adaptation Framework. Regard has also been had to the sectoral emissions ceilings and budgets that help to shape and inform government policy on climate action over the next five years. Refer to **Section 1.5** for full consideration of international, national and regional policy and legislation considered.

3.3. Framework for Climate Action

The actions of this Plan will be delivered within and as part of a framework to ensure their effective and successful delivery. The framework configures the arrangement of climate actions within a defined structure ensuring alignment between potential on the ground actions and the overarching vision that the Plan aspires to deliver.

The Actions prioritised as part of this framework will work to reduce emissions from Leitrim County Council’s own assets and operations, influence sectors in the delivery of their own emissions reduction, raise awareness of climate change and promote positive climate action at a community level.

The framework of climate actions in Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan are as follows:



Figure 23 Planning for Climate Action

3.3.1. Plan Mission

While Leitrim County Council’s **Vision Statement** defines where it would like to lead the County, its **Mission statement** speaks to its grounded purpose in delivering and mainstreaming effective climate action across all services and functions. This action-oriented mission statement helps guide representatives and stakeholders of Leitrim County Council in coordinating their work towards the defined **Vision** for the Plan.

3.3.2. Strategic Goals

Strategic goals set the context for mitigation and adaptations actions in service of Leitrim County Council’s climate Vision and Mission. The identification and development of such goals establishes a structured approach to the arrangement of climate actions to be addressed. These goals are informed by the key themes that emerged from the issues collated as part of the evidence base and stakeholder engagement.

There are 5 Strategic Goals of this Plan, see **Figure 24** below for the themes identified.

Key Themes & Strategic Goals

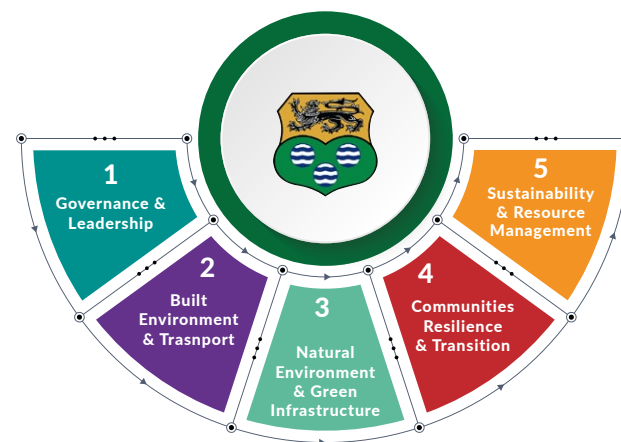


Figure 24 Key Themes and Strategic Goals

The Objectives and Actions are also presented in a more detailed, tabular fashion for each of the Strategic Goals as follows:

- **SG 1:** Actions for Governance & Leadership
- **SG 2:** Actions for Built Environment and Transport
- **SG 3:** Actions for Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure
- **SG 4:** Actions for Communities: Resilience and Transition
- **SG 5:** Actions for Sustainability & Resource Management

It is important to note that the delivery of actions contained in this Plan will be dependent upon several factors including:

- **Stakeholder buy-in:** A stakeholder is anyone who impacts on, or is impacted by an action. To deliver the actions contained in this Plan, stakeholder buy-in will be essential. Examples of stakeholders include residents, community organisations, businesses, and public sector bodies.
- **Available Funding:** Actions often require funding outside of the local authorities' assigned budgets and the availability of funding from external government and non-governmental sources will be a key determinant in the delivery of some actions contained in this Plan.
- **Prior / Prerequisite actions:** Actions contained in this Plan can be dependent on the delivery of prerequisite actions e.g. a feasibility study may

be required prior the installation of renewable technologies.

3.3.3. Environmental Governance Principles

The following Environmental Governance (EG) principles will apply to the Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan:

- **EG1** Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
- **EG2** Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
- **EG3** Ensure Local Authority development underpinned or supported by Plan actions is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have significant negative effects on the receiving environment shall be supported.
- **EG4** Promote through control or influence as appropriate, the carrying out of flood resilience measures underpinned by Plan actions in a manner that supports climate action-biodiversity related co-benefits, and which has due regard for the protection and enhancement of rare, protected or important habitats and species.
- **EG5** Promote the carrying out of climate action related projects supported by the Plan in a manner that supports climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and which has due regard to cultural, archaeological or architectural features and sensitivities.
- **EG6** Promote the carrying out of climate action related projects underpinned by the Plan in a manner that supports climate action water quality co-benefits, and the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives, and the protection and maintenance of physical habitat and hydrological processes / regimes.
- **EG7** Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, flood zones which contribute to green infrastructure.
- **EG8** Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.



- **EG9** Ensure Local Authority projects supported by Plan actions have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasives species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No Local Authority climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasives species listed in Schedule III shall be supported.
- **EG10** Support opportunities to promote peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the Plan.

Strategic Goal 1



Governance & Leadership

SG1 Leitrim County Council will provide robust leadership, governance and commitment to climate action to achieve our Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals

OBJECTIVES

- To implement appropriate climate action mitigation and adaptation measures across all operations of Leitrim County Council.
- To be an exemplar in climate action to influence, coordinate and enable others to meet their climate action obligations.
- To work and collaborate with other sectors and agencies to deliver programmes that support climate action.
- To utilise technology to enhance the efficiency and decrease the carbon footprint of our services.
- To increase the knowledge, awareness, and competency of the staff of Leitrim County Council surrounding climate change and action.



Governance & Leadership

The size and scale of the climate change action requires strong governance that is sufficiently flexible to work to the complexities and challenges involved.

Ultimately, the successful implementation of the action Plan is the collective responsibility of many stakeholders, beyond Leitrim County Council. However, it is critical that Leitrim County Council provides leadership, good governance and resources for the successful delivery of this Plan.

In this context Leitrim County Council will oversee responsibility for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, build resilience to ensure continued good service provision, while more broadly, influencing and enabling others to meet their own climate ambitions.

Actions set out under Governance and Leadership will ensure that Leitrim County Council is mobilised to pursue positive climate action through:

- **Climate Action Capacities:** Resources and governance arrangements are in place to enable effective decision making and support the implementation of the climate action Plan.
- **Cross-departmental** arrangements and action: Activation of the local authority Climate Action Team to promote multi-departmental coordination and collaboration to give effect to the implementation of actions across all services of the Council.

- **Working together:** Engaging with relevant government departments, agencies and stakeholders and establishing partnerships to find solutions to implement actions.
- **Mainstreaming:** Ensure that all strategies, policies, plans and projects developed by Leitrim County Council are compatible with the Climate Action Plan and that priority actions are resourced appropriately.
- **Communications and engagement:** Raise public awareness to support the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** Establish a system to track progress towards achieving actions and ensure transparent reporting.

Alignment of SG1 Objectives with Sustainable Development Goals and Delivering Effective Climate Action Goals

The objectives are aligned to SDGs and DECA Goals as follows:

- SDGs – (SDG 11) sustainable cities and communities, (SDG 13) climate action, and (SDG 16) peace justice and strong institutions

- DECA Goals – (DECA 1) foster governance, leadership, and partnerships for climate action, and (DECA 2) achieve our carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030 and 2050

Policy Alignment:

Sustainable Development Goals and DECA 2030 Goals which are aligned to Governance & Leadership:



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

DECA 1

DECA 2

Figure 25 SG1 Governance and Leadership alignment with SDGs and DECA Goals

Table 7 Actions on Governance and Leadership

| GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| Objective: To implement appropriate climate action mitigation and adaptation measures across all operations of Leitrim County Council | | | | | | |
| GL1 | Finalise, adopt and implement a Green Public Procurement (GPP) strategy aligned with national policies. The GPP strategy to be implemented across all services and functions and utilised for the procurement of services and materials in so far as practicable. | Combined | Finalise and adopt strategy. Implement strategy | Procurement / Management Team | All Departments | 2024 |
| GL2 | Develop a monitoring and reporting tool to ensure GPP is embedded into all procurement. | Mitigation | Development of monitoring tool | Procurement / Finance Department | All Departments | 2024 |
| GL3 | Ensure GPP Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) is undertaken to Green Criteria and included in contracts. | Combined | Number of contacts assessed for GPP inclusion | Procurement / Finance Department | All Departments | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| GL4 | Mainstream climate action policy as an integral component in the Corporate Plan objectives to ensure due consideration is given to climate within the local authority activities and to the delivery of functions and services. | Combined | Alignment of all objectives of Corporate Plan with Climate Action Policy | Management Team | All Departments | 2024 |
| GL5 | Ensure the latest iterations of the Leitrim County Council Plan, policies and strategies fully align with Leitrim County Council's Climate Action Plan. | Combined | Review of existing plans and policies | Management Team | All Departments / Climate Action Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| GL6 | All sections heads to provide regular updates to the Climate Action Team with new project details to ensure climate action considerations are being undertaken. | Combined | Quarterly review to be issued to Climate Action Team | Management Team | All Departments | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |

| GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| GL7 | Ensure that climate actions are included on all relevant team plans and all Sections Annual Service Delivery Plans (ASDP) and that they are discussed and updated at each meeting to embed a culture of climate change across the organisation. | Combined | Actions added to the ASDP across all departments. Actions delivered by agreed date. | Management Team | All Departments | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| GL8 | Climate action to be included on the Chief Executive monthly management report. | Combined | Review of monthly management reports | Corporate Services Department / Climate Action Team | None | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| GL9 | Climate action will be incorporated into the Performance Management Development System (PMDS) process. | Combined | Incorporation into PMDS | Human Resources / Management Team | Climate Action Team | 2025 |
| GL10 | Ensure that a Climate Action Committee is in place to drive the actions outlined by the Climate Action Plan. | Combined | Committee established | Management Team | Climate Action Team | 2024 |
| GL11 | Develop and implement a Financial Management resource for recording the cost of major climate / weather events. | Combined | Resource developed | Finance Department | All Departments | 2024-2029 |
| GL12 | Leitrim Library Service will deliver on Climate Actions outlined in the National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027 and on the targets set out in the Library Development Plan (2023-2027). | Combined | Identification and implementation of Targets | Library Service | LGMA / DRCD | 2024-2027 |

| GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| Objective: To be an exemplar in climate action to influence, coordinate and enable others to meet their own climate obligations | | | | | | |
| GL13 | Establish an Energy Working Group to review energy reduction across all LCC assets and operations, implement initiatives and monitor progress against KPIs. | Combined | Regular Review of Data, number of meetings held | All Departments / Management Team | Climate Action Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| GL14 | Hold, promote and support an annual Climate Action Day | Combined | Climate Action Day held | Climate Action Team | Corporate Services Department / Leitrim PPN / Community Development | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| GL15 | Promote climate action through social media highlighting, promoting, and creating awareness on climate change via the Leitrim County Council website. | Combined | Social Media posts | Corporate Services Department | Management Team / Climate Action Team / Environment Section | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| GL16 | Update library educational stock with current climate action information where available. Continue to update material as necessary. Run Library events and workshops that promote climate literacy. | Combined | Volume of replaced content. | Library Service | Climate Action Team / SEAI / LGMA, Libraries Ireland / CARO | 2024 |
| GL17 | Encourage and recognise the work of County Leitrim voluntary groups and housing estates to engage in Circular Living Initiatives, Energy Efficiency and Sustainability through an annual awards ceremony. | Combined | Number of estate / group initiatives | Housing Department / Community Development | Climate Action Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| GL18 | Promote newly refurbished and constructed council houses as best practice examples of energy conservation and highlight the importance of the Decarbonising Zone both to local contractors and the public. | Combined | Number of promotional activities undertaken. | Climate Action Team | Housing Department | 2025 |

| GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| GL19 | Enhancement of emphasis on development of social housing on sites near town centres and local facilities. Ensure any supported development is planned in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water, environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage. | Mitigation | Number of new developments in proximity to town centres. | Housing Department | Climate Action Team | 2025 |
| Objective: To work and collaborate with other sectors and agencies to deliver programmes that support climate action | | | | | | |
| GL20 | Inform Industry, Business and Enterprise of applicable funding sources available to them to assist with GHG reduction or implementation of energy upgrades. | Mitigation | No of information events held | Local Enterprise Office, Economic Development | Climate Action Team / Chamber of Commerce / LCDC | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| GL21 | Carry out an energy performance review within Leitrim County Council on an annual basis. Review will include details of energy and GHG reduction progress from baselines. | Combined | GHG reduction progress | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Roads Department | Climate Action Team / SEAI | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| GL22 | Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Eastern and Midlands CARO and Northern and Western Climate Action Region (NWCAR). | Combined | Number of recommendations adopted | Climate Action Team | Local Enterprise Office | 2024 |
| GL23 | Deliver all objectives within the Leitrim County Council Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Digital Strategy. | Combined | No of objectives delivered | Information & Communications Technology | Climate Action Team | 2024 |

| GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| Objective: To utilise technology to enhance the efficiency and decrease the carbon footprint of our services | | | | | | |
| GL24 | Adopt a cloud technology first approach to reduce the volume of energy used by physical servers and ancillary infrastructure such as cooling systems. Steps will be taken to ensure the cloud provider chosen has sustainability – and carbon – goals that align with the overall objective of this Plan. | Combined | Reduction in number of physical servers | Information & Communications Technology | Climate Action Team | 2026 |
| GL25 | Replacement of technology in council chamber to facilitate hybrid meetings going forward. | Combined | Implementation of new technology | Information & Communications Technology | Climate Action Team | 2024 |
| GL26 | Continue reduction of printers across organisation. | Combined | Number of printers removed | Information & Communications Technology | Climate Action Team / Management Team | 2029 |
| GL27 | Utilisation of M&R system to obtain information on Leitrim County Council GHG emissions to ensure transparent, balanced and accurate reporting of decarbonisation progress to keep stakeholders informed. | Combined | Input to M&R system | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management | Climate Action Team | 2024 |
| Objective: To increase the knowledge, awareness, and competency of the staff of Leitrim County Council surrounding climate change and action | | | | | | |
| GL 28 | Create and implement a climate action engagement & training portal within the organisation for all staff and Elected Members. | Combined | Number of staff and Elected Members to complete training. | Climate Action Team / Information & Communications Technology | Corporate Services Department | 2025 |
| GL29 | Develop a climate action Pack as part of induction process for all indoor and outdoor staff and EMs. | Combined | Development of Climate Action Pack | Climate Action Team | Human Resources | 2024 |

| GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|-----------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| GL30 | Provision of appropriate and ongoing training for Climate Action Committee Members. | Combined | Development of forum | Environment Section / Climate Action Team / Corporate Services Department | Community Development / All Departments | 2024 |
| GL31 | Develop a collaborative cross departmental forum to educate and raise awareness amongst staff of climate change actions, initiatives and funding schemes available to assist with implementation. To include the use of exemplar projects and demonstrations sites. | Combined | Development of forum | Environment Section / Climate Action Team / Corporate Services Department | All Departments | 2024 |

Strategic Goal 2



Built Environment & Transport

SG 2 To pursue climate actions to increase climate resilience of the built environment and transport and work towards emission reductions in line with national targets

OBJECTIVES

- To implement appropriate climate action mitigation and adaptation measures across all operations of Leitrim County Council.
- To conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the use of renewable energy technologies, and increase energy efficiency throughout LCC housing, offices and infrastructure.
- Ensure emergency planning systems and plans address climate action to protect critical infrastructure from extreme weather events and to ensure a coordinated and resourced emergency response to all climate related emergencies and events, including flooding.
- To promote, support and facilitate the implementation and expansion of active travel mechanism, in associating with other key stakeholders to enhance connectivity, mobility and modal shift in County Leitrim.
- To reduce the councils transport emissions through increasing fuel efficiency, facilitating fleet transition and examining current working practices.
- To align, update and implement plans and strategies as required to enable sustainable transport and active travel in County Leitrim.



Built Environment & Transport

The built environment includes buildings of domestic, public, industrial and commercial nature all across the County of Leitrim as well as critical infrastructure like roads, bridges, drainage network, energy and communications infrastructure. The built environment contributes a significant proportion of the County Leitrim's emissions. Climate considerations will be integrated into the design, planning and construction of all new Leitrim County Council developments as well as optimising energy efficiency and lower carbon heat sources within existing buildings.

The protection of the built environment from the negative impacts of climate change is a focus area to minimise exposure of key infrastructure (such as Council own buildings, roads, stormwater drains, public facilities, and the energy grid) to climate-related hazards. This will require appropriate planning, preparedness and asset management in liaison with key stakeholders and agencies such as the OPW on flood risk.

Transport emissions in County Leitrim reflect the high level of private car dependency. Actions are tailored to reduce car journeys, increase active travel, improve public transport and use of lower carbon emission vehicles. These actions will help deliver better air quality, mobility and health for all citizens.

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are an important strand in the shift away from fossil fuel-powered vehicles. To support this transition Leitrim County Council actions include the provision for accessible charge point infrastructure to facilitate this change, in collaboration with service providers.

Alignment of SG2 Objectives with Sustainable Development Goals and Delivering Effective Climate Action Goals

The objectives are aligned to SDGs and DECA Goals as follows:

- SDGs – (SDG 3) good health and well-being, (SDG 7) affordable and clean energy, (SDG 11) sustainable cities and communities, and (SDG 13) climate action
- DECA Goals – (DECA 2) achieve our carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030 and 2050, (DECA 3) deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience, (DECA 4) mobilise climate action in local communities, (DECA 6) achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects

Policy Alignment:

Sustainable Development Goals and DECA 2030 Goals which are aligned to Built Environment & Transport:

The diagram illustrates the alignment between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and DECA 2030 Goals. At the top, four SDG icons are shown: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Below these, four DECA goal icons are shown: DECA 2 (Carbon emission and energy efficiency targets), DECA 3 (Climate adaptation and resilience), DECA 4 (Climate action in local communities), and DECA 6 (Just transition). Lines connect the SDG icons to the DECA icons, showing that SDG 3 aligns with DECA 2, SDG 7 with DECA 3, SDG 11 with DECA 4, and SDG 13 with DECA 6.

Figure 26 Alignment of SG2 Built Environment and Transport with SDGs and DECA Goals

Table 8 Actions on Built Environment and Transport

| BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| Objective: To implement appropriate climate action mitigation and adaptation measures across all operations of Leitrim County Council | | | | | | |
| B1 | Deliver the Leitrim Pathfinder Programme and pursue other national and regional funding sources for retrofitting and improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions. Promote the need to adhere to environmental protection requirements during retrofit projects, including the need to appropriately conserve built heritage. | Mitigation | Completion of Programme, Reduction in energy usage of buildings. | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Environment Section / Housing Department / Capital Projects Office | SEAI / Climate Action Team | 2025 |
| B2 | Leitrim County Council Buildings – Implement sensor lighting in all common areas and corridors of suitable public buildings. | Mitigation | Number of buildings with lighting upgrades | All Departments | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management | 2024 - 2029 |
| B3 | Leitrim County Council will compile an asset / property register which will detail all council owned buildings and lands. The register will be updated routinely. | Combined | Completion of register. Revision of Register. | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Housing Department | Capital Projects Office / Roads Department / Finance Department | 2024 - 2029 |
| B4 | Apply a robust risk assessment and management framework to Local Authority owned buildings and properties to identify and protect against the key vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change and mitigate against service disruption. | Combined | Completion of risk assessment | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management, Roads Department, Housing Department | Climate Action Team | 2025 |
| B5 | Deliver the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Leitrim as part of PLEEP Scheme to reduce GHG emissions and energy usage of Public Lighting. Ensure potential actions maintain / control or reduce existing lumen levels and spectral range to avoid effects on biodiversity. | Mitigation | Upgrades complete. Reduction in energy usage. | Roads Department, Capital Projects Office | Appointed Contractors, ESB networks | 2025 |

| BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| B6 | Develop and implement a formalised housing strategy for energy efficiency for our housing stock with an initial focus in Carrick-on-Shannon as the DZ. | Mitigation | Completion of strategy. Number of houses retrofitted | Housing Department | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Climate Action Team | 2025 |
| B7 | Endeavour for all new council public buildings to be built to Net Zero Standards as far as practicable having due regard for environmental sensitivities that may be affected by retrofitting works or development, including built heritage, sensitive human receptors and biodiversity. | Mitigation | Number of new builds completed to net zero. | Housing Department | Planning Services / Roads Department / Community Development | 2024-2029 |
| B8 | Use Gap to Target (GTT) Tool to inform decisions and continue retrofitting council owned buildings to reduce emissions such as Electricity, Thermal and Transport and improve energy efficiency having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve built-heritage. | Mitigation | Validate data on emissions. % emissions reduction since baseline. | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Housing Department | Climate Action Team | 2024-2029 |
| B9 | Facilitate and support the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Carrick-on-Shannon Town and County through schemes such as Town centre First having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works. | Mitigation | Number of houses upgraded. Number of houses occupied. | Planning Services / Economic Development, Housing Department / Capital Projects Office | DRCD, DHLGH. | 2024-2029 |

| BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| B10 | Prepare and implement a programme of measures for Council Buildings / Facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in non-electrical related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and to improve adaptation to climate change. | Mitigation | Completion of Programme, Reduction in energy usage of buildings. | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Environment Section / Housing Department / Capital Projects Office | SEAI / Climate Action Team | 2024-2029 |
| Objective: To conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the use of renewable energy technologies, and increase energy efficiency throughout LCC housing, offices, and infrastructure. | | | | | | |
| B11 | Establish a programme to prepare a full Building Energy Efficiency Rating (BER) inventory for all Local Authority owned social housing within its functional area, GDPR permitting. Revise and update list annually. | Mitigation | Completion of programme with associated timeframes. Number of BERs complete. Revision of list. | Housing Department | Energy Consultants | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| B12 | Ensure water efficiency and conservation measures are implemented in new LA buildings and housing, by including water saving technologies in public housing and buildings, training plumbers, and building contractors in water efficiency measures and including water efficiency measures in Green Procurement. | Mitigation | Number of new buildings completed. Reduction in water usage in Litres. | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Housing Department / Capital Projects Office / Planning Services / Economic Development | Environment Section / Climate Action Team | 2026 |
| B13 | Ensure all Leitrim County Council new build social houses meet minimum A2 Building Energy Rating standard to reduce GHG emissions and Energy consumption; having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by supported development, including landscape and visual sensitivities, sensitive human receptors and biodiversity. | Mitigation | Number of A2 rated builds. Completion of BERs. Updating BERs as necessary | Housing Department / Capital Projects Office | Energy Consultants | Annually 2024 - 2029 |

| BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| B14 | Continue retrofitting and upgrading works of existing social housing units to BER B2 rating to reduce GHG emissions, and energy consumption, while having regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity. | Mitigation | Number of houses upgraded to BER B2. Number of houses planned for upgrade to B2. | Housing Department / Capital Projects Office | Climate Action Team / Facilities, Energy and Asset Management | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| <p>Objective: Ensure emergency planning systems and plans address climate action to protect critical infrastructure from extreme weather events and to ensure a co-ordinated and resourced emergency response from all climate related emergencies and events, including flooding.</p> | | | | | | |
| B15 | Set up cross sectoral Adverse Weather steering committee to deal with, plan for, adopt and mitigate for adverse weather events such as flooding. Collaborate & Participate with Severe Weather Alert Team (SWAT). | Mitigation | Setting up Committee | Climate Action Committee | All Departments / Local Area Offices | 2024 |
| B16 | Resolve local flooding issues utilising OPW and Department of Transport funding (Drainage Programme, Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works, OPW Minor Works Scheme e.g. Dromahaire, Glenfarne, Ballingleragh, Jamestown). | Adaptation | Participation and completion of OPW minor works scheme | Roads Department / Capital Projects Office | OPW | 2029 |

| BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|---|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| B17 | <p>Leitrim County Council will seek to prioritise the delivery of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme identified flood schemes in the county and promote nature-based solutions and integral to these schemes. Prioritise CFRAMS identified flood schemes in Leitrim, priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CoS planning, CoS construction 2. LV Planning, LV construction 3. Mohill -feasibility study, works dependent on outcome 4. Dromod -feasibility study, start dependent on Cos & LV 5. Dromahaire FRS planning; in accordance with technical, financial and environmental requirements | Mitigation | <p>Number of CFRAMS projects prioritised.</p> <p>Number of CFRAMS projects completed.</p> | Capital Projects Office / Roads Department | OPW | <p>2024-2029</p> <p>CoS Q2 2025</p> <p>LV Q2 2025</p> <p>Dromahaire Q4 2024</p> |
| B18 | Ensure that any potential future flood information is used to inform suitable adaptation requirements within the Development Management process and for preparation of the County Development Plan, in line with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Flood Risk Management (DoECLG & OPW, 2009). | Adaptation | <p>Completion of assessment.</p> <p>Adaptation measures outlined and utilised to inform other plans.</p> | Roads Department / Local Area Offices | DoECLG / OPW | 2024 |
| B19 | Pursue maintenance funding for works on local flooding areas ensuring the Plan takes nature-based solutions and protection of biodiversity into consideration. | Adaptation | No of projects funding secured for. | Roads Department | Funding Authorities | Annually 2024 - 2029 |

BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
|------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| B20 | Continue the prioritisation of SuDS measures in road and transportation projects. | Adaptation | All projects to have a SuDS element | Roads Department / Housing Department / Capital Projects Office | Funding Authorities | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| B21 | Ensure regional coordination of Emergency Response Planning. | Mitigation | Routine meetings held and actions recorded | Management Team / Fire Service | Sligo CC / Donegal CC / Gardai / HSE | 2024 |
| B22 | Ensure that emergency response plans are reviewed annually (to ensure the appropriate response plans are reviewed / that the appropriate resource capacity is in place to provide an effective emergency response to issues increasing as a result of climate change including floods and wildfires). | Mitigation | Review of current plan, Annual update of plan. | Fire Service / Management Team | Roads Department / Local Area Offices | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| B23 | Develop a formal routine gulley maintenance and cleaning plan to ensure that programmes are in place in all towns and villages prone to flooding and that all gully's are cleaned in advance of the Autumn and Winter seasons. Pursue funding for same. Ensure the plan takes nature-based solutions and protection of biodiversity into consideration. | Mitigation | Development of Plan. Annual update of plan. | Roads Department / Local Area Offices | Funding Authorities / Dept of Transport | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| B24 | Consider the use of the Weather Impact Register (WIRE) across all Municipal Districts to record and collate the actual impacts of all severe weather events on national platform. | Mitigation | Review of WIRE for Leitrim County Council | Roads Department / Local Area Offices | Met Eireann / HSE | 2025 |

| BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| B25 | Record information on extreme events related to climate change to inform future planning of infrastructure upkeep and maintenance of roads. | Mitigation | Create register | Roads Department | Climate Action Team | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| B26 | Explore the use of alternative road making methods & materials – cold and recycled mixes. Explore ways to minimise the expected increase in maintenance requirements (and associated costs) to road infrastructure from climate stress – Integrating climate change considerations at design stages. | Mitigation | Implementation of alternative and cost reductions | Roads Department | Climate Action Team / Other LAs | 2028 |
| B27 | Review the Heritage Plan taking the National Climate Action Plan and the Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan into consideration. | Combined | Completion of Review | Heritage Officer | Biodiversity Officer / Climate Action Team | 2025 / 2026 |
| Objective: To promote, support and facilitate the implementation and expansion of active travel mechanism, in association with other key stakeholders to enhance connectivity, mobility and modal shift in County Leitrim | | | | | | |
| B28 | Continue to roll out Active-Travel infrastructure maximising available funding from National Transport Authority (NTA), having due regard to opportunities to enhance tourism, recreation and cultural heritage value associated with active travel routes, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, and cultural heritage related sensitivities. | Combined | Completed Active Travel Projects | Roads Department / Active Travel | NTA / Planning Services / Tourism Department / WI / Fáilte Ireland / Other LAs | 2024-2029 |
| B29 | Develop and promote initiatives to encourage sustainable mobility transport modes within the county. Engage with multimodal facilitators regarding suitability and implementation of such initiatives in appropriate towns. For example, Last Green Mile bus shelters and cycle shelters. | Combined | Number of promotional campaigns. Increase in various forms of transport modes. | Roads Department / Active Travel | Climate Action Team / Other LAs | 2026 |

| BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| B30 | Progress the delivery of Greenway / Blueway infrastructure in line with National Cycle Network (NCN). Priority projects at present include: 75km Greenway Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR), 10km Blueway Carrick-on-Shannon to Hartley, 26km Cavan Leitrim Railway Greenway Dromod to Ballinamore, Drumshambo to Ballinamore; having due regard to opportunities to enhance tourism, recreation and cultural heritage value associated with the route, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage related sensitivities. | Combined | Number of completed projects, number of KMs completed greenways | Capital Projects Office | TII / Planning Services / Tourism Department / WI / Fáilte Ireland / Other LAs | 2029 |
| B31 | Increase the number of safe routes to school schemes in the county. Promotion of schemes and engagement with Boards Management having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European Sites, local air quality and cultural heritage. | Combined | Number of Safe Routes to school schemes implemented. Number of schools who partake in scheme. | Roads Department / Active Travel | NTA / Green Schools | 2024 |
| B32 | Promote and encourage a modal shift by raising awareness of Active Travel Infrastructure throughout County Leitrim. | Mitigation | Completion of campaign. Increase in usage of active travel infrastructure. | Climate Action Team | Roads Department / Active Travel / WI / Fáilte Ireland | Annually 2024 - 2029 |

BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| B33 | Engage with Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator (SSMA) programme to increase knowledge, competencies, and understanding of sustainable and smart mobility supporting the implementation of the National Sustainable Mobility Policy (NSMP) goals and those outlined in the Pathfinder programme; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage. | Mitigation | Number of Initiatives undertaken. | Roads Department / Economic Development | NTA / TFI / Active Travel | 2024 |
| Objective: To reduce the councils transport emissions through increasing fuel efficiency, facilitating fleet transition and examining current working practices. | | | | | | |
| B34 | Develop a Regional EV Strategy for County Leitrim in association with Lead Local Authority & implement actions / recommendation as identified having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging infrastructure and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality and cultural heritage. | Mitigation | Development of strategy. | Roads Department/ Management Team | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Climate Action Team / Other LAs | 2024 |
| B35 | Develop a fleet management strategy ensuring alignment to the Leitrim CAP and sustainability principles. Evaluate annual mileage of LA grey fleet and associated carbon emissions. | Mitigation | Development of strategy | Roads Department | Energy Officer (FEAM) / Climate Action Team | 2025 |

BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
|------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|---|-------------------------|
| B36 | Implement routine statistical analysis of fleet vehicle fuel usage with a view to working on reducing usage year on year. | Mitigation | Fuel usage | Roads Department | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Climate Action Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| B37 | Undertake a decarbonisation strategy for local authority fleet in line with guidance from CCMA, LGMA and SEAI, activating the Avoid – Shift – improve model working to the aim of 51% emission reductions by 2030. Implement a road map towards sustainable decarbonisation for the LA Fleet. | Mitigation | Development of Strategy | Roads Department | Climate Action Team | 2026 |
| B38 | Promote education with all LA Fleet Vehicle Drivers through Fleet management training, Eco-driver & in vehicle driver training. Include this stipulation in the fleet decarbonisation strategy. | Mitigation | Completion of Training | Roads Department | Climate Action Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| B39 | Prepare inventory of Local Authority Fleet, including leased vehicles and status of same i.e. end-of-life. | Mitigation | Completion of inventory | Roads Department | Climate Action Team | 2024 |
| B40 | Purchase EVs as replacement fleet vehicles where suitable, and where available on the market, in line with decarbonisation strategy, whilst ensuring energy / fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced and ensure appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for local authority owned Electric Vehicles. | Mitigation | Number of traditional vehicles replaced with EV | Roads Department | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Climate Action Team | 2029 |

| BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|-----------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| B41 | Replacement of fuel type for HGV fleet with sustainably sourced and certified HVO that delivers lifecycle GHG emission reductions when the technology and products become available. | Mitigation | Number of vehicles using HVO or alternative fuel | Roads Department | Climate Action Team | 2029 |
| B42 | Promote the cycle to work scheme to encourage the use of bicycles to travel to / from work. Encourage the use of carpooling / lift sharing. | Mitigation | Completion of investigation | Roads Department / Human Resources / Management Team | Climate Action Team | 2024 |
| B43 | Undertake a staff travel audit to ascertain how staff are travelling to and from work and to understand what additional facilities or infrastructure may be required to support alternative sustainable travel means. | Mitigation | Completion of audit. Quantifications of annual KMs | Climate Action Team / Environment Section | All Staff | 2024 |
| B44 | Where possible, the provision of showers and changing rooms to facilitate staff active travel via sustainable transport. | Combined | Implementation of facilities | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management | Management Team | 2025 |
| B45 | Promotion of virtual meetings over in-person meetings to reduce business travel of staff within and outside the county. | Adaptation | Reduction in business travel KMs | Corporate Services Department / Human Resources | Management Team | 2024 |
| Objective: To align, update and implement plans and strategies as required to enable sustainable transport and active travel in County Leitrim | | | | | | |
| B46 | Develop, adopt & implement Local Transport, Plans for Carrick-on-Shannon with an emphasis on the promotion of sustainable transport modes and modal shift having due regard to climate action co-benefit / biodiversity enhancement opportunities and environmental sensitivities that may be impacted by active travel projects. | Adaptation | Development of Plan | Roads Department / Planning Services | Local Area Offices | 2029 |

| BUILT ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| B47 | Implement the new Carrick urban Cycle Network & County Leitrim Cycle Network in accordance with 'Cycle Connects'. Identify deficiencies in the network & seek funding to improve the identified cycle networks. | Mitigation | Progress of implementation of cycle links in accordance with 'Cycle Connects' | Roads Department / Active Travel | Climate Action Team / Tourism Department / Leitrim Sports Partnership | 2026 - 2029 |
| B48 | Design and implement a transportation mobility plan and land-use transportation plan for Carrick-on-Shannon; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage and the need to promote sustainable transport. | Mitigation | Development and implementation of Plans | Roads Department / Active Travel | Planning Services / Climate Action Team | 2025 |

Strategic Goal 3



Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

SG 3 To enhance the Natural environment of County Leitrim to work in support of nature-based solutions for climate resilience and emission reductions whilst promoting enriched biodiversity.

OBJECTIVES

- To implement appropriate climate action mitigation and adaptation measures across all operations of Leitrim County Council
- To be an exemplar in climate action to influence, coordinate and enable others to meet their climate action obligations
- Protect peatlands from further degradation



Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

Leitrim is predominantly a rural county dominated by small scale farm enterprise which plays an important role in the economy of the County. The County is characterised by mountains, expansive lakes and deep glacial valleys with a short coastline in the north and by a drumlin belt interspersed with small lakes and rolling hillocks and contains a section of the River Shannon with its associated lake systems in the south.

Ongoing and projected climate change poses significant risks for the natural environment. Increasing temperature and extreme weather events is depleting biodiversity and habitats. Agricultural practices are also significantly impacted with increased rates of drought or high intensity rainfall events predicted.

Leitrim County Council actions will support the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment of County Leitrim and to increase the provision of green infrastructure where possible. Green infrastructure assets support biodiversity, nature-based stormwater and flood risk management, optimising carbon storage with the associated opportunities for eco-system services, active travel, amenity, and recreation to be developed.

The ecosystem service benefits of protecting the natural environment and developing green infrastructure can include some of the following lists:

Regulating Services - reducing water runoff, reducing flood risk, enhancing recharge of groundwater, reducing soil erosion, trapping sediment, enhancing water quality, absorbing air pollutants, sequestering carbon, releasing oxygen, providing shade, reducing summer air temperatures and the urban heat island effect, providing wind shelter, reducing energy use, reducing glare, attenuating noise, screening of unattractive or noisy places, supporting pollinators, enhancing pest and disease control

Cultural Services - Providing and enhancing landscape character, contributing to sense of place and identity, part of cultural heritage, enhancing aesthetics, benefiting physical health – reducing blood pressure, stress, asthma, speeding recovery from surgery and illness, enhancing attention and cognitive function, improving mental health and well-being, improving pregnancy and birth outcomes, reducing mortality rates – especially related to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, encouraging physical activity, enhancing connectivity, enhancing community cohesion, reducing aggression, violence and crime rates, increasing security, enhancing driver and pedestrian safety, reducing road traffic speeds, enhancing privacy, bringing people closer to nature,

providing setting for outdoor learning, improving educational outcomes through improvements in concentration and performance and reduced time off for illness, enhancing quality of life, providing spiritual value and meaning, supporting biodiversity and wildlife viewing

Provisioning Services - Source of timber, fuel, fodder, and fibre, location and source of food production, enhancing water supply, source of biofuels, location for solar, wind and hydro energy, source of ornamental resources and crafts

Ecological Benefits - Habitat provision, improvement & connectivity

Economic Benefits - Increasing land and property prices, reducing 'time on market' for selling property, attracting business and customers, reducing health care costs, reducing expenditure on air pollution removal, reducing expenditure on storm water infrastructure, reducing expenditure on flood defences, saving investment in new power supplies, generating income from renewable energy, reducing heating and cooling costs, increasing property taxes, enhancing rental income, increasing tourism and visitor revenues, reducing screening costs especially next to main roads, reducing agricultural costs and enhancing farmer income, providing potential for carbon offsetting trade, generating income from

sales of food, fibre, biofuels and ornamental / craft produce, creating jobs and employment in environmental sector

There are a number of initiatives underway in County Leitrim such as the CANN Cuilcagh-Anierin WaterLANDS Project on repairing eroded areas and controlling invasive species on the Geopark which included parts of County Leitrim. Leitrim County Council actions on the Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure will support any existing schemes to promote conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the County.

Alignment of SG3 Objectives with Sustainable Development Goals and Delivering Effective Climate Action Goals

The objectives are aligned to SDGs and DECA Goals as follows:

- SDGs – (SDG 6) clean water and sanitation, (SDG 14) life below water, and (SDG 15) life on land
- DECA Goals – (DECA 3) deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience, (DECA 4) mobilise climate action in local communities, and (DECA 5) mobilise climate action in enterprise and support transition to an inclusive, net zero, circular economy.

Policy Alignment:

Sustainable Development Goals and DECA 2030 Goals which are aligned to Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure:

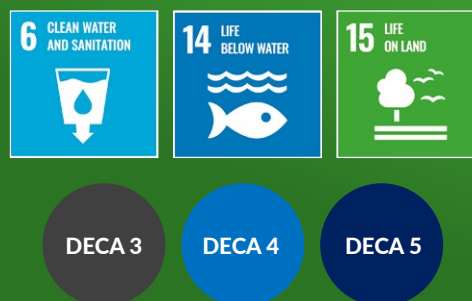


Figure 27 SG3 Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure alignment with SDGs and DECA goals

Table 9 Actions for Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure

| NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| Objective: To implement appropriate climate action mitigation and adaptation measures across all operations of Leitrim County Council | | | | | | |
| N1 | Develop and implement a Local Authority Biodiversity 5-year Action Plan to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including climate-relevant measures. | Combined | Development of Plan. Implementation of Plan | Biodiversity Officer | Climate Action Team / Heritage Officer | 2025 - 2029 |
| N2 | Deliver climate themed events and ensure sustainability and climate action are integrated into all events through the development of local authority wide policy on events e.g. Heritage week / Biodiversity week / Science week / Hedgerow week / Climate Action week. | Combined | Number of events participated in | Climate Action Team | Environment Section / Heritage Officer / Biodiversity Officer | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| N3 | Develop an integrated programme to raise awareness of invasive alien species to help prevent, manage and eradicate invasive species in the county. | Combined | Number of workshops delivered Number of staff participated | Biodiversity Officer | Climate Action Team / Local Area Offices | 2026 |
| N4 | Consider a Green Infrastructure Strategy including a green infrastructure network for the County that incorporates ecology, climate change mitigation and adaptation, to increase climate resilience, climate action co-benefits and environmental protection requirements. Ensure such a strategy promotes climate action co-benefits and adherence to planning and environmental protection requirements. | Combined | Review Green Infrastructure potential | All Departments | Climate Action Team / Biodiversity Officer / Planning Services | 2028 |

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
|------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------|
| N5 | Identify Local Authority land that may require ecological surveys and highlight areas that may be at risk and require protection. | Combined | Number of sties identified | Biodiversity Officer | Climate Action Team / Local Area Offices / Heritage Officer | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| N6 | Continue County wetland survey and identify suitable wetland sites for conservation and restoration. | Combined | Number of new wetlands surveyed | Biodiversity Officer / Heritage Officer | Climate Action Team | 2025 |
| N7 | Assist with a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive with a focus on follow-up and protective / remedial action. | Combined | Number of water bodies at risk from extreme weather events | Environment Section | LAWPRO / Rural Water | 2024-2029 |
| N8 | Development and implementation of a SuDS policy and continue the prioritisation of SuDS measures in Local Authority projects ensuring the Plan takes nature-based solutions / protection of biodiversity and avoidance of habitat fragmentation into consideration. Ensure this policy promotes nature-based solutions where appropriate and has due regard to environmental protection requirements. | Combined | Implementation SuDS requirements | Roads Department / Planning Services | Climate Action Team / Biodiversity Officer | 2026 |
| N9 | Develop an awareness raising campaign for the management of native hedgerows and implement recommendations from hedgerow appraisal survey where appropriate. | Mitigation | No of staff participating in workshops | Biodiversity Officer | Climate Action Team / Local Area Offices / Heritage Officer | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |

| NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| Objective: To be an exemplar in climate action to influence, coordinate and enable others to meet their own climate obligations | | | | | | |
| N10 | Encourage implementation of biodiversity aspects in new and existing social housing estates where possible e.g. green roofs, green walls, wetland and pond SuDS, reed bed waste water filtration, green car parking, nest boxes in facades, grasslands, and wildlife-friendly shrubs and trees in open spaces having appropriate regard to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria. | Combined | Number of estates where implementation of biodiversity aspects has been considered | Housing Department | Climate Action Team / Biodiversity Officer | 2026 |
| N11 | Promote planting of native trees, hedgerow and vegetation on developments and in line with the All-Island Pollinator Plan guidelines. | Mitigation | Number of new areas of native planting on developments. | Biodiversity Officer | Climate Action Team / Heritage Officer (Planning Services) / NDBC | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| N12 | Promote the integrated planning, design and delivery of green infrastructure (including urban greening) through appropriate provisions in planning policies, development standards, infrastructural, public realm and community projects, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage. | Adaptation | Appropriate provision included in policy. Number of developments incorporating green infrastructure | Planning Services | Management Team | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| N13 | Identifying suitable lands within the ownership of the LA for prioritising native species biodiversity contribution. | Combined | Number of land parcels identified | Housing Department, Local Area Offices / Facilities, Energy and Asset Management | Climate Action Team | 2028 |

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| N14 | Continue work on existing and initiate new biodiversity / sustainability centred projects. | Combined | Number of projects initiated / completed | Environment Section / Planning Services, (Biodiversity Officer / Heritage Officer) | Climate Action Team / The Organic Centre | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| N15 | Develop and implement a pesticide use reduction policy for Leitrim County Council. The policy shall also ensure pesticides are only used in accordance with good environmental practice, and only to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites. | Combined | Policy developed / reduction in volume of pesticide purchased annually | Biodiversity Officer | Environment Section / Local Area Offices / The Organic Centre | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| Objective: Protect peatland from further degradation | | | | | | |
| N16 | Consider feasibility of the integration of peatland soil maps with the council planning map systems to assist in land use identification to further prevent drainage and degradation of peatlands. | Combined | Complete feasibility of integration | Information & Communications Technology | Climate Action Team / Planning Services | 2027 |



Strategic Goal 4



Communities: Resilience & Transition

SG 4 To support and empower communities to activate on climate action with enhanced sustainability and resilience

OBJECTIVES

- To build capacity, improve social connectedness, and foster cooperation to increase community resilience and transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy
- To promote climate action and climate literacy through training and education in partnership with education bodies



Communities: Resilience & Transition

Implementation of engineering solutions and innovation will bring us part of the way to achieving climate targets. In addition, buy in from communities will be required to integrate a broader societal approach and ensure everyone is playing their part in shaping a sustainable county for future generations.

Provision of information, engagement and participation are key to ensuring meaningful and long-lasting behaviour change is achieved. This is important in mobilising climate action including in the uptake of active travel, use of public transport, switch to lower carbon heat / fuel sources, enhancing the natural environment and maintaining general awareness of climate change, its impacts and also its opportunities.

Leitrim County Council will facilitate ongoing dialogue with diverse strands within the community to foster partnership, identify challenges, empower climate action and ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way, leaving no one behind. Our aim is to inform, engage and promote participation across communities in identifying and delivering place-based solutions to achieve climate ambitions.

Leitrim County Council recognise there are active community groups stewarding the protection and enhancement of the environment to deliver on

climate action and biodiversity protection. Leitrim County Council is committed to work with these groups to enable them to fulfil their ambitions.

Leitrim County Council will support a Just Transition within communities on the journey to becoming more sustainable and resilient.

Alignment of SG4 Objectives with Sustainable Development Goals and Delivering Effective Climate Action Goals

The objectives are aligned to SDGs and DECA Goals as follows:

- SDGs – (SDG 8) decent work and economic growth, (SDG 11) sustainable cities and communities and (SDG 17) partnerships for the goals
- DECA Goals – (DECA 1) foster governance, leadership, and partnerships for climate action, (DECA 4) mobilise climate action in local communities, (DECA 5) mobilise climate action in enterprise and support transition to an inclusive, net zero, circular economy, and (DECA 6) achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects

Policy Alignment:

Sustainable Development Goals and DECA 2030 Goals which are aligned to Communities: Resilience & Transition:



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

DECA 1

DECA 4

DECA 5

DECA 6

Figure 28 SG4 Community Resilience and Transition alignment with SDGs and DECA goals

Table 10 Actions for Communities Resilience and Transition

| COMMUNITIES: RESILIENCE & TRANSITION | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| Objective: To build capacity, improve social connectedness and foster cooperation to increase community resilience and transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy | | | | | | |
| CRT1 | Implement an awareness campaign to educate the public on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures including the circular economy, promotion biodiversity, water conservation and carbon reduction initiatives. Promote various funding streams and grants to assist homes, communities and businesses to implement positive climate actions. | Combined | Number of Education and Awareness campaigns | Environment Section / Climate Action Team | Community Development / Local Enterprise Office / Tourism Department | 2024 |
| CRT2 | Adhering to sustainability principles for corporate events supported, facilitated, and organised by Leitrim County Council. | Combined | Review measures for events | Corporate Services Department | Environment Section / Climate Action Team | 2025 |
| CRT3 | Include 'Sustainability and Climate Change' criteria on LA initiated grant schemes for scoring assessments to ensure that community groups / stakeholders consider and incorporate Climate Mitigation and Adaption in all their grant funded activities. | Combined | Number of application forms updated to comply with this objective | Management Team / Community Development | Climate Action Team | 2024 |
| CRT4 | Support artists, organisations, and communities to consider and adopt best practice in their work with regard to climate challenges such as carbon reduction, circular economy, water, environment and biodiversity. | Combined | Number of supports in community | Community Development / Arts / Leitrim Sports Partnership | Climate Action Team | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| CRT5 | Encourage and support Tidy Towns organisations, festivals, and event's organisers to incorporate climate action and sustainability into all events. | Combined | Number of groups supported | Roads Department / Local Area Offices / Environment Section / Community Development | Climate Action Team / Tidy Towns | Annually 2024 - 2029 |

| COMMUNITIES: RESILIENCE & TRANSITION | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| CRT6 | Encourage community groups particularly Tidy Towns to consider climate change mitigation and adaptation in their multi-annual plans and programs to reduce climatic risks in their communities. | Combined | Number of groups considering climate in annual plans | Environment Section / Roads Department | Climate Action Team / Community Development | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| CRT7 | Increase awareness on regeneration tourism to ensure that visitors have a positive impact on the county as a tourist destination. Ensure all tourism developments integrate sustainable tourism principles into their activities, plans and proposals. | Combined | Climate encompassed to all tourism policies | Tourism Department | Climate Action Team / Community Development / Fáilte Ireland | 2024 |
| CRT8 | Raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and ways for communities to increase response and resilience to these impacts. | Mitigation | Number of awareness events | Climate Action Team | Leitrim PPN / Community Development | 2024 |
| CRT9 | Investigate and utilise funds that provide for cycle routes within schools, community facilities, sports and youth clubs having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage. | Adaptation | Number of cycle routes funded in the community | Active Travel | Climate Action Team | 2025 |
| CRT10 | Promote and implement the Community Climate Action Fund 2023-2026 to engage communities in localised Climate Action Projects. | Combined | Number of grants for Climate Action Projects | Environment Section / Climate Action Team | Community Development / Leitrim PPN | 2026 |
| CRT11 | Supporting community groups to develop climate awareness projects such as bike repair workshops, clothes swaps, community garden green festivals. | Mitigation | Number of initiatives / projects supported | Environment Section / Climate Action Team | Leitrim PPN / Community Development | 2024 |

COMMUNITIES: RESILIENCE & TRANSITION

| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------|
| CRT12 | Promote LEADER projects on sustainability through Local Community Development Committees (LCDC). | Combined | Number of LEADER Projects on sustainability | Local Enterprise Office / Economic Development / Tourism Department | Climate Action Team | 2026 |
| CRT13 | Promote dedicated climate action information on Leitrim County Council website | Combined | Climate Action space provided | Information & Communication Technology / Climate Action Team | Corporate Services Department | 2024 |
| CRT14 | Promote and encourage community allotments. | Mitigation | Community Engagements | Community Development / Climate Action Team | Biodiversity Officer / Local Area Offices / Leitrim PPN | 2026 |
| Objective: To promote climate action and climate literacy through training and education in partnership with educational bodies | | | | | | |
| CRT15 | Engage with youth groups and schools to raise awareness of climate issues and promote positive climate action initiatives. Organise school competitions to promote biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation. | Combined | Number of youth groups / schools engaged | Environment Section | ATU / Arts / Biodiversity Officer / Climate Action Team / MSLETB / The Organic Centre | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| CRT16 | Partner with ATU to explore innovative Climate Action Adaptation and Mitigation research projects. | Combined | Number of projects explored with Institute | Environment Section / Climate Action Team | ATU | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |

COMMUNITIES: RESILIENCE & TRANSITION

| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
|------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------------|
| CRT17 | Engage, promote and support the Green Clubs programme amongst GAA clubs in the County. | Combined | Having a recommended point of contact in place | Environment Section / Climate Action Team / Leitrim Sports Partnership | Community Development / GAA / Leitrim PPN | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| CRT18 | Liaise and collaborate with the CARO and the EPA on the implementation of the National Dialogue on Climate Action. | Mitigation | Implement Climate action dialogue in Leitrim County Council | Climate Action Team | EPA / CARO | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| CRT19 | Support the Green Schools and Heritage in Schools programme to promote biodiversity and climate issues to schools. | Combined | Number of Schools Engagements | Environment Section / Climate Action Team | MSLETB | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| CRT20 | Engage with schools and An Taisce, provide resources and funding to deliver green flags and endeavour to help schools achieve green schools' status. | Combined | Number of schools engaged | Environment Section / Climate Action Team | MSLETB / An Taisce | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |
| CRT21 | Develop a Seed Library within the Leitrim County Council Libraries | Combined | Seed Library established | Library Service | Leitrim PPN / Community Development / Other LAs / Biodiversity Officer / Climate Action Team / The Organic Centre | 2026 |

Strategic Goal 5



Sustainability & Resource Management

SG 5 To influence and create a sustainable and resource conscious culture within County Leitrim.

OBJECTIVES

- Support circular economy initiatives and infrastructure within County Leitrim including prevention, reuse, repair and recycling to lower resource demand and combat the impacts of climate change
- Support and assist the Business and Enterprise sectors to go green, grow the counties low carbon economy and increase the supply of low carbon goods and services
- Support farmers in diversifying to lower carbon agricultural practices and promotion of sustainable food production within the County
- Support renewable electricity generation, transmission and use within the County in line with national and regional policy including the Electricity Storage Policy Framework.



Sustainability & Resource Management

Drivers for consumption behaviours are complex, choices influence energy and water use, clothing purchases, household appliances, food sourcing and travel arrangements. The manufacturing and transportation of consumer goods adds further to the climate challenge that often the consumer may not be aware of. Mobilising a clean and circular economy particularly, has vital role in achieving targets of GHG emissions but also in reducing the impact on biodiversity.

The consumption of natural resources to produce goods that we depend on threatens the ability of future generations to access and sustainably use those natural resources. However, as with reducing waste, there are a number of ways to address this material footprint by reducing non-essential consumption, segregation of materials, reusing, repairing and sharing existing goods; finding local producers, and; using more ethical or sustainable options.

A European Parliament working definition for the circular economy reads

'The circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended'

Leitrim County Council is committed to supporting increased levels of sustainability and the management of resources in order to create a vibrant and diverse sustainable local and circular economy; building community knowledge, skills, resilience and resources. Approximately 80% of product environmental impacts are determined at design phase; it is vital that citizens, communities, business and other organisations are enabled and empowered to affect positive change and improve quality of life through their buying power.

Leitrim County Council are aware of policies and schemes to assist the agricultural sector in transitioning to sustainability including

- Origin Green Programme national food and drink supply chain (farmers, producers, manufacturers, retailers and foodservice companies) sustainability programme led by Bord Bia
- The Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) to address biodiversity decline while delivering an income support for farm families (includes a Forest Strategy on large scale planting down to native woodland creation)
- A Biomethane Strategy will be developed under the stewardship of a working group under the auspices of DAFM to include development of an Anaerobic Digestion Industry

Leitrim County Council also recognise the importance of agriculture to the economy of County Leitrim and will work with stakeholders to maintain and enhance a toxic free environment, a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system and sustainable farm practices.

Leitrim County Council support development of renewable energy generation in accordance with the Renewable Energy Strategy and the development of a secure a renewable energy infrastructure that can contribute to national electricity grid decarbonisation targets and to support community-based renewable energy projects.

In this regard Leitrim County Council will focus on the opportunities such as:

- Promotion of green procurement and supply chains in tendering processes,
- Assist businesses and enterprise to 'Go Green', grow the County's low carbon economy and increase the supply of low carbon goods and services
- Reduce Leitrim County Council consumption of waste, non-essential goods, single use products, energy and water.
- Promote circular economy including sustainable use and end-of-life management of natural resources.

- Working with communities to tackle over consumption and build knowledge and awareness around reducing, recycling, conserving and repairing where possible and sustainable sectoral practices
- Support the development of renewable electricity generation in accordance with national and local policies.

Alignment of SG5 Objectives with Sustainable Development Goals and Delivering Effective Climate Action Goals

- The objectives are aligned to SDGs and DECA Goals as follows:
- SDGs – (SDG 7) affordable and clean energy, (SDG 11) sustainable cities and communities, (SDG 13) climate action, and (SDG 15) life on land
- DECA Goals – (DECA 2) achieve our carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030 and 2050, (DECA 3) deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience, and (DECA 5) mobilise climate action in enterprise and support transition to an inclusive, net zero, circular economy

Policy Alignment:

Sustainable Development Goals and DECA 2030 Goals which are aligned to Communities: Resilience & Transition:

Figure 29 SG5 Sustainability and Resource Management alignment with SDGs and DECA goals

Table 11 Actions on Sustainability and Resource Management

| SUSTAINABILITY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| Objective: Support circular economy initiatives and infrastructure within the County including prevention, reuse, repair, and recycling to lower resource demand and combat the impacts of climate change | | | | | | |
| SR1 | Develop and implement an annual environmental awareness campaign incorporating the objectives of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. | Mitigation | Completion of campaign | Environment Section | EPA / WERLA / My Waste | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| SR2 | Increase the number of solar bins across the County. | Adaptation | Number of solar bins installed | Environment Section / Roads Department / Local Area Offices | EPA / WERLA / My Waste | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| SR3 | Continued promotion of circular economy strategies for communities through engagement with community networks. | Combined | Report on strategies promoted to communities. Number of annual meetings with networks | Community Development / Environment Section | Climate Action Team | 2024 |
| SR4 | Run a pilot scheme to implement water fountains or water refilling stations in the parks within the DZ and measure usage. | Mitigation | Delivery of pilot scheme and measurement of utilisation | Environment Section / Local Area Offices / Climate Action Team | Uisce Éireann | 2025 |
| SR5 | Regulate and enforce the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) which focus on delivering positive environmental outcomes for air quality, water quality and waste management. Ensure sustainable transport modes are used to travel to and from inspection sites, where feasible. | Mitigation | % compliance with annual targets for Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) | Environment Section | EPA / WERLA / My Waste | Annually 2024 - 2029 |

| SUSTAINABILITY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| SR6 | Implement a wider roll out of segregated brown bin collection systems across the County to capture this resource for treatment in Anaerobic Digestion plants for recovery of biomethane in line with the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. Countywide Awareness Campaign in relation to roll out of Brown Bin using Radio, Print and Social Media. | Combined | % Households with Kerbside Brown Bin Access. Number of houses with Brown Bins in place | Environment Section | EPA / WERLA / My Waste | 2025 |
| SR7 | Increase recycling and recovery for bulky household items, hazardous waste, electrical waste and green waste. | Combined | % increase in free events for householders; Metric tonnes of bulky household items, hazardous waste, electrical waste and green waste recycled | Environment Section | WERLA / My Waste | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| SR8 | Ensure that all Leitrim County Council waste collection contracts are aligned with the waste hierarchy and minimise disposal and recovery in favour of circular systems and the elimination of single use plastics. | Mitigation | % Contracts that apply Waste Hierarchy in Procurement | Environment Section / Procurement | EPA / WERLA / My Waste | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| SR9 | Progress the authorisation and subsequent of remediation of historical landfill sites previously controlled by Leitrim County Council. Ensure such remediation projects are properly designed and planned and do not cause unintended negative environmental effects. | Mitigation | Progress update | Environment Section | DECC / EPA | Annually 2024 - 2029 |

SUSTAINABILITY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| SR10 | Complete inspections on Domestic Wastewater treatment systems to increase water quality status, through consultation with the EPA. | Mitigation | Number assigned to be completed annually. | Environment Section | EPA | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| Objective: Support and assist the Business and Enterprise sectors to go green, grow the counties low carbon economy and increase the supply of low carbon goods and services | | | | | | |
| SR11 | Develop a climate toolkit to assist Business / Enterprise in the improvement of their environmental profile, reduce GHGs emissions and energy use and transition to the Circular economy model. | Combined | Climate Toolkit for Business. Develop mechanism for delivery implemented and initiated. | Climate Action Team | Local Enterprise Office / IDA / EI / ED | 2025 |
| SR12 | Support the establishment of 'Circular Economy Hubs' that act as physical material hubs for the drop-off and recirculation of materials and products from and for both commercial and residential activities. | Combined | Number of circular economy hubs. | Environment Section / Climate Action Team | Local Enterprise Office / IDA / EI | 2025 |
| SR13 | Promote greater community and business engagement on climate action, circular economy, energy, water conservation, sustainable mobility and biodiversity through the Community Climate Action Officer, Climate Team and support tools to enable the required behaviour change. The LEO will promote Green Micro, Lean programmes, focused Energy Efficiency Briefing Series and capital programmes demonstrating circular economy principles with a focus on SMEs. | Combined | Number of direct engagements. | Local Enterprise Office | Leitrim PPN / Community Development / LCDC / IDA / EI | 2024-2029 |
| SR14 | Support business in their transition via government initiatives, e.g. Green for Micro. | Mitigation | Number of businesses availing of initiatives under scheme. | Local Enterprise Office | EI | Ongoing 2024 - 2029 |

SUSTAINABILITY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| Objective: Support farmers in diversifying to lower carbon agricultural practices and promotion of sustainable food production within the county | | | | | | |
| SR15 | Development and implementation of a toolkit that can be utilised by staff during farm inspections to engage with the farmers on climate action. Provision of appropriate training for staff on the utilisation of the toolkit. | Adaptation | Development of toolkit. Number of farmers engaged. Number of training events | Environment Section | Climate Action Team | 2025 |
| SR16 | Promotion of sustainable diversification in food production through the economic and enterprise remit. Highlight positive benefits of sustainably sourced locally grown food. | Adaptation | Number of promotional events | Local Enterprise Office / Economic Development | Taste Leitrim / Climate Action Team / Community Development / Veterinary Office / The Organic Centre | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| SR17 | Creation of a sustainable agriculture working group for Leitrim, in association with entities such as Teagasc, Dept of Agriculture and NPWS to support the agricultural sector with their GHG emissions reduction requirement. | Combined | Engagement with sector | Veterinary Office | IFA / Farm Advisors / Teagasc / DAFM / NPWS / Climate Action Team | 2024 |
| SR18 | Support the development of country and farmers' markets as key trading areas for the sale of local agricultural and craft produce and to support their role. Support locally produced sustainable food products. | Mitigation | Develop Farmers Markets in key trading area | Local Enterprise Office / Economic Development | Climate Action Team / Environment Section | 2024 |
| SR19 | Promote sustainable farm practices. | Combined | Number of events | Veterinary Office / Environment Section | Climate Action Team / Teagasc / IFA / Farm Advisors / Bord Bia | Annually 2024 - 2029 |

| SUSTAINABILITY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
| SR 20 | Provide technical supports to farming enterprises in the development of biomethane from Anaerobic Digestion, including guidance on planning and environmental protection requirements having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by the construction and operation of Anaerobic Digestion systems (e.g. water quality, air quality, biodiversity, European sites). | Combined | Total Tonnes Waste Treated by AD | Climate Action Team / Environment Section / Planning Services | Teagasc / IFA / Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency / IrBEA | 2024 |
| SR21 | Support and promote the Signpost Advisory Programme to support climate and sustainability actions on farms having due regard to environmental sensitivities in the area such as European sites, water quality, air quality and biodiversity related sensitivities. | Combined | % Farmers sign up to Signpost Programme | Climate Action Team / Environment Section | DAFM / Teagasc / Veterinary Office | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| SR22 | Support farmers in reducing chemical nitrogen fertiliser use by 20% by 2030, increasing the use of protected urea and increasing the uptake of low emission slurry spreading to 90% of farms. | Combined | Chemical Fertiliser Use in the County (tonnes) | Environment Section | DAFM / Teagasc / Climate Action Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 |
| Objective: Support renewable electricity generation, transmission and use within the County in line with national and regional policy including the Electricity Storage Policy Framework. | | | | | | |
| SR23 | Renewable Electricity to be developed in accordance with Leitrim County Council's Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) and the National Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework, to support sustainable development of renewable electricity. Promote the proper planning and sustainable development of renewable energy and ancillary grid infrastructure. | Mitigation | Implementation of strategy | Planning Services / Economic Development / Emergency Services Department | All Departments / Other LAs | 2025 |

SUSTAINABILITY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation/ Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe |
|------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|-----------|
| SR24 | Support safe, secure, reliable electricity grid infrastructure within the County to support renewable electricity generation, reinforcement, strengthening and integration of the transmission network to allow linkages with renewable electricity proposal consistent with RES. Promote the proper planning and sustainable development of renewable energy and ancillary grid infrastructure. | Mitigation | MW of renewable electricity supported | Economic Development / Environment Section | ESBN / EirGrid / Climate Action Team / Other LAs | 2024-2029 |
| SR25 | Support local community-based renewable energy projects and new micro-generation and small-scale generation renewable energy projects. Promote project adherence to planning and environmental protection requirements. | Mitigation | MW of renewable electricity supported | Economic Development / Environment Section | ESBN / EirGrid / Climate Action Team / Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency / Community Development / Leitrim Development Company / Other LAs / IrBEA | 2024-2029 |

4. Carrick-On-Shannon Town Decarbonising Zone

4.1. What is a DZ?

A Decarbonising Zone is a spatial area identified as a test bed of what is possible for decarbonisation and climate action at a local and community level to help support and realise national climate ambition.

The LA Climate Action Plan Guidelines Annex for Decarbonising Zones define a DZ as a *'spatial area identified by the local authority, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets'*.

Each Local Authority must identify one spatial location or area for DZ to outlined thresholds:

- (i) urban areas - with a population not less than 5,000 persons
- (ii) rural areas - with an area not less than 4km² or
- (iii) other locations / areas that can demonstrate decarbonisation at a replicable scale) that would be subject to a plan for a Decarbonising Zone (DZ).

The identified DZ should consider a range of projects that deliver outcomes capable of meeting the national emission reduction targets of 51% by 2030 and net zero by end of 2050, from the baseline year of 2018.

The range of projects proposed should be specific to the emissions and climate characteristics of the spatial area covered by the DZ, and identify appropriate project partners and sponsors while embracing a range of technologies and measures addressing a variety of areas which include:

- Electricity sourcing,
- Heat management,
- Reducing needs for travel and shifting travel modes towards active and public transport,
- Enhanced building energy efficiency,
- Carbon sequestration, and
- Energy storage and management systems.

A DZ should also address the wider co-benefits of air quality, improved health, embodied carbon, agricultural practices, sustainable land management, lower noise levels, waste, water, circular economy. As part of *'place-based focus'* the delivery of climate actions offers opportunities beyond emission reductions, creating places that are sustainable, resilient and inclusive where people enjoy living, working and doing business.



The county town is Carrick-on-Shannon (population 4,743). It is a highly developed, prospering river port on the River Shannon and many tourists hire cruising boats here to explore the Shannon and the Shannon–Erne Waterway, which is a 63 km canal linking the two river systems. The town has significant potential for development of Green Infrastructure.

It is amongst the fastest growing towns in Ireland and has grown by 25% in the past few years. It is identified in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly area as a strategic employment centre that can accommodate a significant level of population growth and employment through investment in infrastructure and placemaking.

4.2. Carrick-on-Shannon Decarbonising Zone

An area around Carrick-on-Shannon has been selected as the DZ for County Leitrim (herein Carrick-on-Shannon Decarbonising Zone) as it offers the Local Authority the opportunity to maximise their impact across the town and wider county through the delivery of decarbonisation actions that can be developed from its unique position as an inland tourism hub, abundance of natural assets and interested community of local business and residents.

An overarching Vision for the DZ has been defined to capture the aim of the DZ, to stimulate dialogue and highlight priorities and opportunities:

Carrick-on-Shannon Decarbonising Zone will be a focus for sustainable place-based climate action opportunities including mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity enhancement, to deliver the National Climate Objective at local and community levels to provide a test bed of learning and understanding on the scale of the challenge, that can be applied elsewhere in County Leitrim



Figure 30 Carrick-on-Shannon DZ

4.3. Decarbonisation Opportunities

DZ classifications provide the opportunity for communities, the local authority and public sector to lead by example and build on existing assets and services to implement innovative decarbonisation and sustainability initiatives. Building on its physical environmental and socio-economic characteristics, Carrick-On-Shannon DZ has a strong foundation of assets and services from which to develop decarbonisation opportunities.

4.3.1. Promoting the DZ as a Hub for Greener Tourism and Natural Heritage

By harnessing the abundant natural heritage, local ecosystems and biodiversity from surrounding wetlands to attract visitors, there are ample opportunities to promote Carrick-On-Shannon as a hub for nature-based tourism in Ireland. Through greener transport options and encouraging local leisure / recreational and hospitality businesses to take action on emissions and sustainability ambitions, carbon-neutral tourism options can also be explored.

4.3.2. Harnessing Blue Infrastructure

Carrick-On-Shannon is home to a range of blue infrastructure including the River Shannon, Erne estuary and surrounding Lakelands of Lough Allen and Lough Key, which are unique assets. There are ample opportunities to further harness and protect these assets, by educating the community on their protection (e.g. engaging local schools) and attracting visitors for water-based recreation

4.3.3. Transforming Energy Efficiency

There are 1,577 occupied dwellings in Carrick-on-Shannon. Approximately 15% of the building stock was constructed before 1970. The area also contains 182 social housing units (data from CSO, Carrick-on-Shannon Electoral Division). Retrofitting of the ageing housing stock, social housing units and commercial buildings provides an opportunity to enhance the energy efficiency, improve Building Energy Ratings (BER) and reduce overall emissions. Scaling up residential technology solutions such as heat pumps, district heating and availability of renewables are also suitable for commercial and public sector buildings.

4.3.4. Promoting Active Travel and Greener Transport

Approximately 61% of commutes to and from the DZ area are made in a car, while 30% are made using public transport, bicycle or on foot. While these commutes are not entirely associated with journeys within the DZ area boundary, they highlight opportunities for decarbonising transport and promoting active travel options to reduce vehicle emissions (e.g. safe cycle routes and greenways). There are currently two Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations located within the DZ boundary and one immediately outside. To support decarbonisation opportunities in the transport sector, an increased proportion of EVs in the vehicle fleet as well as the electrification of freight and public transport is required within the DZ

4.3.5. Encouraging Green Action among Businesses

Businesses within Carrick-on-Shannon are already taking substantial action in the area of sustainability, with numerous retailers possessing national and international sustainability strategies and targets (e.g. Woodies, ALDI, Tesco). Further encouraging local action among the business community would highlight and promote sustainability across the DZ. Opportunities for enhanced engagement between local authorities and the business community include upskilling staff within the DZ to promote behavioural change, building internal capacity to equip employees with the knowledge / skills to promote decarbonisation / sustainability initiatives and the provision of support services such as innovation and knowledge sharing hubs

4.3.6. Enhancing Awareness among the Community

The total population of the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ area was estimated at 3,464 (Central Statistics Office, CSO, 2016). The presence of 2 Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) within the DZ (the Carrick-on-Shannon Community and the Upper Shannon Erne Sustainable Region) highlights the existing interest of local communities in sustainability and promoting decarbonisation. Such communities are important examples of best practice and can provide key learning opportunities for other residential areas within the DZ and beyond.

4.4. Carrick-on-Shannon Emissions Inventory

To support the development of the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ and in accordance with the LACAP

Guidance, a Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) was developed for Carrick-on-Shannon. The BEI determined the level of emissions for five sectors (Residential, Commercial & Public Sector, Transport and Waste) across the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ.

Leitrim County Council's BEI for the DZ area is informed by the guidance document Technical Annex C: Climate Mitigation Assessment and Technical Annex D Decarbonising Zones and follows a Tier 3 approach, i.e. a '*bottom-up, spatially led*' approach.

The results of the Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) for Carrick-on-Shannon DZ are presented in the table and chart below.

Table 12 CoS Emissions per capita

| Sectoral Emissions | Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e) |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Residential | 8,804 |
| Commercial & Public Sector | 11,961 |
| Transport | 7,427 |
| Waste | 727 |
| Total carbon emissions | 28,919 |
| Total carbon emissions per capita (tCO ₂ e/capita) | 8.35 |

Total carbon emissions for the DZ equate to approximately 28,919 tCO₂e. This translates to 8.35 tCO₂e per capita based on 2016 census population data. In 2018, Ireland's national carbon emissions equated to approximately 12.6 tCO₂e per capita. While the DZ's carbon emissions per capita is lower

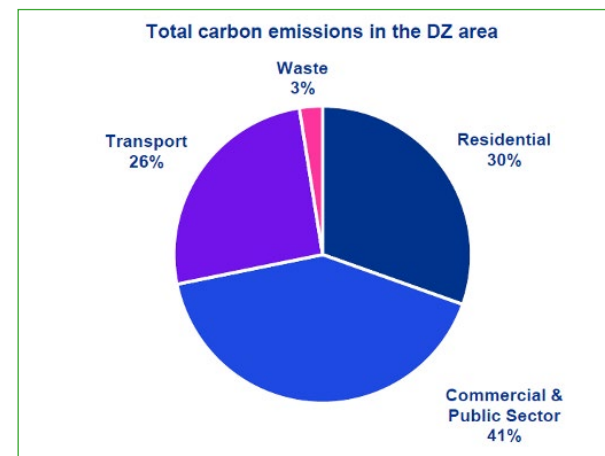


Figure 31 CoS Emissions per Sector

than the national equivalent, Ireland is higher than the European Union (EU) average of 8.2 tCO₂e per capita (EU GHG Emissions per capita 2018).

Leitrim County Council's BEI for the DZ area is informed by the guidance document Technical Annex C: Climate Mitigation Assessment and Technical Annex D Decarbonising Zones and follows a Tier 3 approach, i.e. a '*bottom-up, spatially led*' approach. The relevant spatial and non-spatial data extracted from various sources is summarised below:

- Residential** - Average energy consumption calculated from the SEAI BER Research Tool. Total '*occupied*' housing stock taken from CSO data for the Carrick-on-Shannon Electoral Division. Total energy consumption for fuel and electricity taken from CSO data representative of the primary heating sources in homes. Relevant SEAI Conversion Factors were used to convert energy into carbon emissions.

- **Social Housing** - Average energy consumption calculated from the SEAI BER Research Tool. Total number of social housing units taken from CSO data. Total energy consumption for fuel and electricity taken from CSO data representative of the primary heating sources in homes. Relevant SEAI Conversion Factors were used to convert energy into carbon emissions.
- **Commercial & Public Sector** - Building use and total floor area m² extracted from the OSI PRIME2 Data Model. Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) fuel and electricity benchmarks used to estimate energy use for each of the building types based on their floor area. Total energy consumed broken down into fuel sources and electricity using the national energy breakdown for the commercial and public sector. Relevant SEAI Conversion Factors were used to convert energy into carbon emissions.
- **Transport** - Number of vehicles licenced from 'Transport Omnibus' and proportioned for the DZ area by population. Total energy consumed per transport mode broken down into fuel sources and electricity, supported by the SEAI National Energy Balance. Relevant SEAI Conversion Factors were used to convert energy into carbon emissions.
- **Waste** - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Pollutant Release & Transfer Register (PRTR) used for carbon emissions associated with wastewater and a benchmark for carbon emissions per population used to estimate waste related carbon emissions.

4.5. Register of Opportunities

The register of opportunities identifies and compiles a portfolio of projects, actions, technologies and interventions include mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures, to deliver the targets set for energy and emission reductions across the DZ.

A register of opportunities has been developed for the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ with the carbon reduction potential of each opportunity quantified in terms of its contribution to reducing carbon emissions across the DZ. Potential carbon reductions have been assessed against the national target of a 51% reduction by 2030. The register of opportunities has been used to inform identification of actions.

To develop the register of opportunities for the Leitrim DZ, a series of actions have been undertaken:

- **Evidence Base** - a review of the BEI developed for the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ was conducted to provide a detailed analysis of sources of emissions. A review of national (such as the Climate Action Plan) and regional policy (e.g. RSES) was undertaken to understand the national and regional policy context, aims and objectives.
- **Best practice review** - A review of existing actions being undertaken by Local Authorities in Ireland and across Europe was undertaken to identify best practice and effective actions being undertaken by local authorities to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

- **Stakeholder Engagement** - A stakeholder workshop was held with representatives from across the service areas of Leitrim County Council to identify and assess the feasibility of potential opportunities, actions and the responsible parties that will be involved in delivery of actions.



Figure 32 LCC Staff workshop on DZ 20th September 2023

Opportunities provided through the register are 'technical' which may be quantified in terms of emissions reduction (e.g. retrofitting of dwellings, electrification of vehicles) while 'enabling' actions (e.g. behavioural change, awareness, capacity building) which are more difficult to quantify have not been included. However, implementation of enabling opportunities will support the delivery of 'technical' opportunities and will be key levers in meeting emission reduction targets.

Quantification of carbon reductions has been developed based on 2018 baseline information and as a result does not account for projected demographic change across the DZ or the potential increase in the baseline share of renewable electricity

to the DZ. These are significant influencing factors for the future decarbonisation of the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ:

- **Population Growth:** Between 2016 and 2025, the population of Carrick-on-Shannon is expected to grow by 3% (c.300) (Department of Public Health, 2019). This increase is expected to be below the national projected population growth across Ireland which is projected to increase by up to 7% over the same period.
- **Renewable Electricity** – the Climate Action Plan 2023 aims to increase the share of renewable electricity to 80% by 2030 from a baseline of 38% (2018). This transition will be gradual with the carbon intensity of the electricity generating sector reducing through time leading to a reduction in electricity based emissions across all sectors.

The Carrick-on-Shannon DZ Baseline Emissions Inventory for 2018 was calculated as 28,919 tCO₂e. **Table 13** below shows the required reduction of each of the sectors to achieve the 51% reduction target and the projected emission reductions based on the opportunities outlined in this report. The opportunities outlined below include those for which Leitrim County Council has direct responsibility and those that the Council can influence and support.



Table 13 Register of Opportunities

| Sector | 2018 BEI (tCO ₂ e) | 2018 Reduction Target (tCO ₂ e) | 2030 Reduction Target (% of 2018 BEI) | Projected Reduction 2030 (tCO ₂ e) | Projected (Reduction 2030 (% of 2018 BEI) | Based on the Following Opportunities |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Private Residential | 7,864 | 4,011 | -51% | -4,643 | - 59% | This reduction is based on improving BER of 55% of all private residential housing units to B2 (minimum) and the installation of Solar Photovoltaic PV on 55% of all properties |
| Social Housing | 940 | 479 | -51% | -507 | -54% | This reduction is based on improving the BER of 75% of social housing units under Leitrim County Council's control to B2 (minimum) and the installation of Solar PV on 75% of the properties |
| Commercial & Public Sector | 11,961 | 6,100 | -51% | -7,825 | -65% | Improving energy efficiency of 55% of buildings, installing Solar PV on 100% of buildings and displacing 70% fossil fuel consumption (gas and kerosene) for low carbon fuel in the DZ |
| Transport | 7,427 | 3,788 | -51% | -2,747 | -37% | Active travel opportunities decrease the total KM travelled by private car in the DZ by 20%, enhanced zero emission vehicles are used by 100% of the DZ's public transport fleet. The electrification of 30% of private cars. Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is used by 50% of freight in the DZ |
| Waste | 727 | 371 | -51% | - 182 | -25% | Improved composting and recycling rates reduce waste emissions |
| Total | 28,919 | 14,749 | -51% | -15,904 | -55% | Note: Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest whole number |

4.6. Enabling Opportunities

As illustrated in the graph in Figure 33 on the bottom right, the register of opportunities developed for the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ provides for the potential to exceed the 51% emissions reduction target and for an overall emissions reduction of c. 55% (15,904 tCO₂) by 2030. In addition to the technical opportunities that will have a quantifiable impact on carbon emissions (as identified in the Register of Opportunities), a number of 'enabling' opportunities have also been identified for the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ. These less tangible opportunities which promote home retrofit, active travel and sustainability will have a significant impact in enabling the decarbonisation of the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ.

- Support the SEAI **Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)** to increase awareness of energy efficiency and decarbonisation, provide for the development of a community energy masterplan, and highlight funding supports.
- A **Community Energy Hub** would increase awareness amongst the community of energy efficiency, decarbonisation and associated environmental and financial benefits.
- Development of a **Street walking information** and mapping campaign. This would promote a modal shift from private to active travel within Carrick-on-Shannon.
- The establishment of **Bike rental schemes** would support active travel amongst the community, reducing car journeys in Carrick-on-Shannon.

- Establishment of a **Cycle Bus Scheme** for schools would reduce car journeys and provide co-benefits in terms of improved health and enhanced air quality.
- Businesses within Carrick-on-Shannon are already taking substantial action in the area of sustainability, **Increasing Awareness of Business** actions would highlight and promote sustainability across Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Engage the creative sector through an **Arts Campaign** to highlight the ambitions and objectives for the DZ.

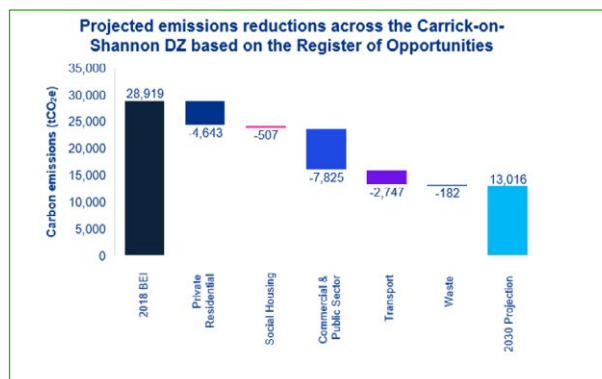


Figure 33 Projected Emissions Reductions based on Register of Opportunities

In addition to the technical actions provided through the Register of Opportunities, the enabling actions identified above have been included in the DZ action plan.

To enable a structured approach to the arrangement of DZ actions to be addressed, five strategic climate action goals have been identified by Leitrim County Council. These goals are informed by key themes that

emerged from issues collated as part of the evidence base and stakeholder engagement undertaken as part of the development of Leitrim's Climate Action Plan and are the same areas identified in **Section 3.3.2.**

Table 14 DZ Actions - Governance and Leadership

| Governance & Leadership | | DZ Objectives: 1. Ensure suitable governance exists to deliver the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ Actions 2. Ensure adequate funding is in place to deliver the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ Actions 3. Ensure Leitrim County Council is as a leader in implementing climate and biodiversity measures | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZGL1 | Implement a monitoring and reporting programme on the implementation of the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ actions. | Both | Number of annual reports | Climate Action Team | Information & Communications Technology | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1 |
| DZGL2 | Identify possible funding options available for the actions identified in the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ Plan. | Both | Number of options identified | Climate Action Team | All Departments | 2024 | 2 |
| DZGL3 | Commit the required budget to fund the actions listed in the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ Plan. | Both | Total annual spend | Management Team | Finance Department | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 2 |
| DZGL4 | Support the development of formal links between community, business and education bodies to facilitate collaborative climate action. | Both | Number of links established | Climate Action Team / Local Enterprise Office | Town Team, Chamber of Commerce, Leitrim PPN / Community Development | 2025 | 3 |
| DZGL5 | Ensure council spending in the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ is fully aligned with green procurement practices. | Both | Percentage of Green Public Procurement Spend | Procurement | None | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1, 3 |
| DZGL6 | Promote best practice climate action case studies. | Both | Number of case studies | Climate Action Team | None | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 3 |
| DZGL7 | Establish a cross departmental DZ Taskforce to lead & drive the DZ Implementation Plan. | Both | Number of meetings held annually. Representation from key stakeholders. Traffic Light Quarterly Progress Report (Red / Amber / Green) | Climate Action Team | All Departments within DZ. | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1, 3 |

Table 15 DZ Actions - Built Environment

| Built Environment | | DZ Objectives: 1. Retrofit local authority buildings across Carrick-on-Shannon 2. Promote the retrofit of private buildings across Carrick-on-Shannon and ensure all new buildings are zero energy 3. Enhance the resilience of the built environment to climate impacts | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|--|--|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZBE1 | Retrofit social housing and local authority buildings in the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ to achieve a minimum Building Energy Rating of B2, having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and built heritage conservation requirements, during any retrofitting works. | Mitigation | Number of social housing units with a BER of B2 | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Housing Department | Finance Department / SEAI | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1 |
| DZBE2 | Assess the feasibility of rooftop solar PV on social housing and local authority property across the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ, having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures. | Mitigation | Study Conducted | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Housing Department | Planning Services | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1 |
| DZBE3 | Install rooftop solar PV on social housing and local authority property across the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ, having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures. | Mitigation | Number of PV projects implemented | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Housing Department | None | 2029 | 1 |
| DZBE4 | Promote retrofit to Building Energy Rating B2 for private and commercial properties across the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ, having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and built heritage conservation requirements, during any retrofitting works. | Mitigation | Number of engagement events held | Local Enterprise Office / Economic Development | SEAI / Climate Action Team / Chamber of Commerce / Town Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 2 |

| Built Environment | | DZ Objectives: 1. Retrofit local authority buildings across Carrick-on-Shannon 2. Promote the retrofit of private buildings across Carrick-on-Shannon and ensure all new buildings are zero energy 3. Enhance the resilience of the built environment to climate impacts | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|--|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZBE5 | Undertake a study to identify vacant buildings in the DZ in support of the Town Centre First Policy. | Mitigation | Feasibility study conducted | Economic Development | Department of Housing, Local Government | 2024 | 1 |
| DZBE6 | Consider suitability for solar canopies at LCC car parks, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as landscape character and visual amenity, local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, and European sites. | Mitigation | Number of locations identified | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management | Planning Services / Climate Action Team | 2025 | 1 |
| DZBE7 | Continue to complete Office of Public Works' (OPW) Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM) within the DZ to ensure all current and future flood risks are identified. | Adaptation | Monitoring and reporting | Capital Projects Office | OPW / Planning Services | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 3 |
| DZBE8 | Utilise available funding to carry out flood protection works and promote the use of Nature-based Solutions (NBS) to reduce the impact of flooding, having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at and in the vicinity of water bodies, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value. | Adaptation | Number of protection works carried out | Roads Department | None | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 3 |

| Built Environment | | DZ Objectives: 1. Retrofit local authority buildings across Carrick-on-Shannon 2. Promote the retrofit of private buildings across Carrick-on-Shannon and ensure all new buildings are zero energy 3. Enhance the resilience of the built environment to climate impacts | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|--|---|--|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZBE9 | Install sensor lighting in common areas of Leitrim County Council buildings (e.g. toilets, stairs, corridors). | Mitigation | Number of lighting installations | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management | None | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1, 2 |
| DZBE10 | Improve the energy efficiency of Leitrim County Council historic buildings within the DZ, having due regard to the built and natural heritage conservation requirements, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species. | Combined | Number of funding allocations secured | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management | Heritage Officer | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1, 2, 3 |
| DZBE11 | Complete a Town Centre First Plan for Carrick-on-Shannon and implement recommendations having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures. | Combined | Completion of plan and recommendations implemented | Economic Development | None | 2025 | 3 |
| DZBE12 | Consider the use of WIRE App to record and monitor the impacts of weather events in the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ. | Adaptation | Review of WIRE for Carrick-on-Shannon | Roads Department / Climate Action Team | Met Eireann / HSE / Local Area Offices | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 3 |

Table 16 DZ Actions - Transport

| Transport | | DZ Objectives: | | | | | |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | | 1.Promote a modal shift from private to public transport in Carrick-on-Shannon 2.Support the development of active travel infrastructure, cycling and walking initiatives 3.Promote and enable the transition of vehicles within the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ to electric or other low-carbon transport options | | | | | |
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZT1 | Implement the decarbonisation of the Local Authority vehicular fleet as appropriate. Ensure energy / fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for local authority owned Electric Vehicles. | Mitigation | Percentage of electric vehicles in fleet | Roads Department | SEAI | 2029 | 1 |
| DZT2 | Undertake an Active Travel study to identify and prioritise the most effective measures, ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection constraints and considerations. | Mitigation | Study conducted | Active Travel | Climate Action Team | 2025 | 4 |
| DZT3 | Examine and identify active travel funding streams. | Mitigation | Number of funds identified | Active Travel | None | 2025 | 4 |
| DZT4 | Assess the feasibility of a bike rental / electric bike scheme in the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ. | Mitigation | Study conducted | Economic Development | None | 2025 | 3, 4 |
| DZT5 | Identify suitable locations for EV charging points across the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage. | Mitigation | Number of locations identified | Capital Project Office / Economic Development | Planning Services / Climate Action Team | 2025 | 3 |
| DZT6 | Work with businesses to promote climate friendly transport, e.g. last kilometre delivery. | Mitigation | Percentage reduction in road traffic in Carrick-on-Shannon | Local Enterprise Office / Economic Development | ATU / Chamber of Commerce | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 3, 5 |

| Transport | | DZ Objectives: 1.Promote a modal shift from private to public transport in Carrick-on-Shannon 2.Support the development of active travel infrastructure, cycling and walking initiatives 3.Promote and enable the transition of vehicles within the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ to electric or other low-carbon transport options | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZT7 | Engage with the relevant authorities to support the electrification of Local Link. Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the consideration of sustainability and environmental protection requirements during the design, planning and development of this project. | Mitigation | Number of engagements held with TFI | Community Development / Climate Action Team | Transport For Ireland (TFI) | 2029 | 3, 5 |
| DZT8 | Promote, support & incentivise cycling / walking bus for schools within DZ area, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage. | Combined | Awareness Campaign delivered | Leitrim Sports Partnership | Schools / An Taisce | 2025 | 1, 2 |
| DZT9 | Increase pedestrianised space in Carrick-on-Shannon to encourage active travel, having appropriate regard to environmental sensitivities such as traffic and transport constraints and aspects, the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage. | Combined | Number of active travel measures implemented | Active Travel | Roads Department | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1, 2 |
| DZT10 | Conduct a feasibility study to assess the potential for alternative fuels within the DZ | Mitigation | Feasibility study conducted | Roads Department | Climate Action Team / Other LAs / IrBEA | 2024 | 3 |
| DZT11 | Utilise low-carbon pavement material within works on the DZ's road network. | Mitigation | Percentage of low-carbon pavement material utilised | Roads Department | EPA | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 2, 3 |

| Transport | | DZ Objectives: 1.Promote a modal shift from private to public transport in Carrick-on-Shannon 2.Support the development of active travel infrastructure, cycling and walking initiatives 3.Promote and enable the transition of vehicles within the Carrick-on-Shannon DZ to electric or other low-carbon transport options | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZT12 | Complete pilot project for green transport between Leitrim County Council's offices. | Mitigation | Pilot Project complete | Active Travel | Climate Action Team | 2024 | 1 |
| DZT13 | Install cycle routes within 1.5km of all schools, community facilities, sports / youth clubs in line with Safe Routes to School programme having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality and cultural heritage. | Mitigation | Number of Routes installed | Active Travel | None | 2024 | 1, 2 |

Table 17 DZ Actions - Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure

| Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure | | DZ Objectives: | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|-----------|---------------------|
| | | 1. Enhance and protect the natural environment and biodiversity of Carrick-on-Shannon 2. Support nature-based solutions for climate resilience and emission reductions whilst promoting enriched biodiversity 3. Create vibrant green spaces for the community | | | | | |
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZNGI1 | Develop a green infrastructure masterplan for Carrick-on-Shannon to coordinate planning for and enhancement of the natural environment, biodiversity and green areas, having due regard for environmental protection considerations and opportunities for climate action co-benefits. | Combined | Plan Developed | Planning Services | Climate Action Team | 2025 | 1, 2, 3 |
| DZNGI2 | Install air quality monitors at appropriate locations in the DZ and monitor over time. | Combined | Number of air quality monitors in place, Air Quality improvement | Environment Section / Climate Action Team | Host premises | 2024 | 1 |
| DZNGI3 | Promote biodiversity gain and carbon sequestration through inclusion of planting of native trees and pollinator friendly plants in new developments subject to the development management process. | Combined | Areas of Native Trees / Plants Planted | Planning Services | Local Area Offices / Biodiversity Officer / NDBC | 2025 | 2 |
| DZNGI4 | Support the creation of public and connected green spaces and wildlife corridors in Carrick-on-Shannon to enhance health and wellbeing and biodiversity, having due regard for planning and development policy and environmental protection considerations during the master planning and development process. | Combined | Hectares of Green Space / Connectivity of green spaces | Biodiversity Officer / Planning Services | Climate Action Team / Local Area Offices | 2026 | 1, 2, 3 |

| Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure | | DZ Objectives: 1. Enhance and protect the natural environment and biodiversity of Carrick-on-Shannon 2. Support nature-based solutions for climate resilience and emission reductions whilst promoting enriched biodiversity 3. Create vibrant green spaces for the community | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZNGI5 | Support green infrastructure and nature-based solutions such as sustainable urban drainage systems to improve climate resilience, having due regard to environmental sensitivities including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value. | Adaptation | Percentage of Hectares served by Sustainable Drainage Schemes | Planning Services / Environment Section / Roads Department / Active Travel / Housing Department / Capital Projects Office | Climate Action Team / Biodiversity Officer | 2029 | 2 |
| DZNGI6 | Promote rainwater harvesting, reuse of grey water and green roofs and walls, having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and built heritage conservation requirements, during any retrofitting works. | Adaptation | Number of projects | Planning Services / Environment Section | Local Area Offices / Climate Action Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 2 |
| DZNGI7 | Pilot a community composting project to manage food waste in the DZ. | Mitigation | Community composting facility developed | Climate Action Team / Environment Section | Community Development / Cré | 2025 | 1 |
| DZNGI8 | Increase the amount of green space / pollinator friendly planting at LCC buildings. | Combined | Area of pollinator friendly green spaces | Biodiversity Officer | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management, NDBC | 2024 | 1, 2, 3 |
| DZNGI9 | Develop and implement a pesticide reduction policy for Carrick on Shannon in line with All Island Pollinator Plan. The policy shall also ensure pesticides are only used in accordance with good environmental practice, and only to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites. | Combined | % Reduction in use of Pesticides | Biodiversity Officer | Environment Section / Local Area Office / Heritage Officer / NDBC | 2025 | 1, 2, 3 |

Table 18 DZ Actions - Communities Resilience and Transition

| Communities: Resilience & Transition | | DZ Objectives: 1.To engage and support communities and citizens to deliver local climate actions to enhance sustainability and resilience 2.Empower community and business climate champions to lead by example 3.Promote energy efficiency, retrofitting and climate action amongst the community | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZCRT1 | Develop annual communications plan to raise awareness of the DZ and engage citizens in climate action. | Combined | Plan Developed | Climate Action Team | Corporate Services Department / Community Development | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1 |
| DZCRT2 | Distribute any age-appropriate informational supports to provide citizens with knowledge to understand and implement the transition in their own lives. | Combined | Number of informational supports provided | Community Development | None | 2024 | 1 |
| DZCRT3 | Identify, train, and resource 'Sustainability Champions' who can act as ambassador businesses for their sectors to encourage other companies within the DZ. | Combined | Number of champions trained | Local Enterprise Office | Climate Action Team / Chamber of Commerce | 2025 | 2 |
| DZCRT4 | Facilitate the distribution of Energy Saving Kits to the public through local libraries. | Mitigation | Number of kits distributed | Library Service | Climate Action Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 3 |
| DZCRT5 | Support the work of the Sustainable Energy Communities within Carrick-on-Shannon. | Mitigation | Number of engagements held | Climate Action Team | Local Enterprise Office / Community Development | 2025 | 3 |
| DZCRT6 | Hold an annual event to promote appropriate retrofitting of private buildings and increase community understanding of climate action. | Combined | Event held | Community Development | Climate Action Team / Sligo Leitrim Retrofit / Leitrim Warmer Homes / Leitrim Development Company / Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency / SEC | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 3 |

| Communities: Resilience & Transition | | DZ Objectives: 1. To engage and support communities and citizens to deliver local climate actions to enhance sustainability and resilience 2. Empower community and business climate champions to lead by example 3. Promote energy efficiency, retrofitting and climate action amongst the community | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZCRT7 | Promote and raise awareness of the climate action related activities of local businesses. | Combined | Number of climate action related activities promoted | Local Enterprise Office | Chamber of Commerce / Town Teams / Environment Section / Climate Action Team | 2025 | 1, 2, 3 |
| DZCRT8 | Promote and raise awareness of the climate action related activities of local community groups e.g. Green Schools Programme and GAA Green Clubs Programme. | Combined | Number of climate action related activities promoted | Environment Section / Leitrim Sports Partnership / Climate Action Team / Community Development | Leitrim PPN | 2025 | 1, 2, 3 |
| DZCRT9 | Host two 'Sustainable' sector specific business events within the DZ. | Mitigation | Number of events held | Climate Action Team / Environment Section | Local Enterprise Office | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1, 2, 3 |
| DZCRT10 | Undertake a feasibility study to determine the need for a 'Green Accreditation' scheme for micro and small businesses. | Combined | Feasibility study undertaken | Local Enterprise Office | Economic Development | 2025 | 1, 2, 3 |
| DZCRT11 | Engage the creative sector through an Arts Campaign to highlight the ambitions and objectives of the Decarbonising Zone. | Mitigation | Arts Campaign held | Arts | Climate Action Team / Library Service / Heritage Officer / Creative Ireland / Community Development | 2025 | 1, 2 |
| DZCRT12 | Investigate an incentive scheme for businesses to support and award them for positive climate action. | Combined | Feasibility Study conducted | Economic Development | Local Enterprise Office | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1, 3 |

Table 19 DZ Actions – Sustainable Resource Management

| Sustainability & Resource Management | | DZ Objectives: 1. Ensure that Leitrim County Council creates a sustainable, low carbon and circular economy within its own organisation 2. Promote and support communities in delivering actions in support of a sustainable economy | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZSRM1 | Upgrade all public lighting in Carrick-on-Shannon to Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights to improve energy efficiency, while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced / controlled to avoid effects on biodiversity. | Mitigation | Percentage of public lighting upgraded | Roads Department | Capital Projects Office | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1 |
| DZSRM2 | Endeavour to ensure LCC procure 100% renewable electricity where possible. | Mitigation | Percentage of renewable electricity procured | Facilities, Energy and Asset Management / Roads Department | Procurement / Management Team | 2029 | 2 |
| DZSRM3 | Endeavour to ensure LCC procurement is fully aligned with green public procurement and circular economy (e.g. no single use products). | Mitigation | Number of single use products procured | Procurement | All Departments | 2024 | 1 |
| DZSRM4 | Develop informational supports to promote the concept of share, reuse and repair amongst communities. | Combined | Number of supports developed | Community Development / Environment Section | Climate Action Team / Tidy Towns / Leitrim PPN | 2024 | 2 |
| DZSRM5 | Support the development of sustainable and circular economy infrastructure, whilst ensuring such infrastructure is appropriately located and designed, and operates in accordance with the provisions of the Waste Management Act or Industrial Emissions related legislation, and in a manner that does not cause negative environmental impacts or localised nuisance. | Combined | Number of projects supported | Environment Section | Climate Action Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 2 |

| Sustainability & Resource Management | | DZ Objectives: 1.Ensure that Leitrim County Council creates a sustainable, low carbon and circular economy within its own organisation 2.Promote and support communities in delivering actions in support of a sustainable economy | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZSRM6 | To enhance and encourage active travel, install bike repair facilities on popular cycle routes. | Mitigation | Number of bike repair facilities installed | Active Travel / Capital Projects Office / Community Development / Leitrim Sports Partnership | Climate Action Team | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 2 |
| DZSRM7 | Install solar compactor bins with smart collection facility. | Mitigation | Number of solar compactor bins installed | Local Area Offices | Environment Section | Annually 2024 - 2029 | 1 |
| DZSRM8 | Undertake a feasibility study of the potential for district heating for Carrick-on-Shannon, ensuring this study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations. | Mitigation | Feasibility study conducted | Climate Action Team | Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency / Uisce Éireann | 2024 | 1, 2 |
| DZSRM9 | Encourage waste collection service providers to provide for the rollout of organic waste. bins across household, commercial and public bin collection. | Mitigation | Percentage of organic bin use | Environment Section | Waste Contractors / WERLA | 2024 | 2 |
| DZSRM10 | Undertake a feasibility study on the potential for Anaerobic Digestion (AD) at an appropriate location in the vicinity of Carrick-on-Shannon utilising waste resources to produce biomethane. Ensuring this study has appropriate regard to planning, waste management and environmental protection related considerations. | Mitigation | Feasibility study conducted | Climate Action Team | Sligo, Leitrim Energy Agency / Other LAs / IrBEA / Uisce Éireann | 2025 | 1, 2 |

| Sustainability & Resource Management | | DZ Objectives: 1.Ensure that Leitrim County Council creates a sustainable, low carbon and circular economy within its own organisation 2.Promote and support communities in delivering actions in support of a sustainable economy | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Action No. | Action | Adaptation / Mitigation / Combined | Tracking / KPI | LA Lead | Partners | Timeframe | Objective Addressed |
| DZSRM11 | Assess the potential for utilising the Shannon River to produce renewable electricity, carefully considering all environmental sensitivities and protection requirements related to such a project during this assessment. | Mitigation | Feasibility study conducted | Climate Action Team / Environment Section / Planning Services | ESB / EirGrid / WI | 2025 | 2 |
| DZSRM12 | Endeavour to move LCC towards a paperless organisation. | Mitigation | Quantity of paper saved | Management Team | All Departments | 2024 | 1 |

5. Implementation and Reporting

5.1. Planning for Implementation

This Climate Action Plan will be implemented by Leitrim County Council. Whilst the Plan requires a whole-of-Council approach, the ownership of the Plan is held within the Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services Directorate.

A Climate Action Team was established in Leitrim County Council in 2023. This Team includes a Climate Action Coordinator (CAC), Climate Action Officer (CAO), and Community Climate Action Officer (CCAO). The role of this Team is to mainstream climate action into the activities of Leitrim County Council, monitor the implementation of the actions and to coordinate the reporting and evaluation of the Plan, following its adoption by the Elected Members. The core Climate Action Team is supported by the wider climate action committee / subgroups / subcommittees across the organisation, that have ownership of actions in the Plan. The Climate Action Team will also be the point of contact for the public to learn about climate action within the County.

The following Departments / Sections within Leitrim County Council have been allocated responsibility for Actions in **Section 3** and **Section 4**. –

- All Departments
- Active Travel (AT)
- Arts
- Biodiversity Officer (BO)

- Capital Projects Office (CPO)
- Civil Defence (CD)
- Climate Action Team (CAT)
- Community Development (CD)
- Corporate Services Department (CSD)
- Customer Services (CS)
- Economic Development (ED)
- Elected Members (EM)
- Emergency Services Department (ESD)
- Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO)
- Environment Section (ES)
- Facilities, Energy and Asset Management (FEAM)
- Finance Department (FD)
- Fire Service (FS)
- Health and Safety Department (HSD)
- Heritage Officer (HO)
- Housing Department (HD)
- Human Resources (HR)
- Information & Communications Technology (ICT)
- Leitrim Sports Partnership (LSP)
- Library Service (LS)
- Local Enterprise Office (LEO)
- Local Area Offices (LAO)
- Management Team (MT)
- Planning Services (PS)
- Procurement
- Roads Department (RD)
- Rural Water (RW)
- Tourism Department (TD)
- Veterinary Office (VO)

Leitrim County Council will work collaboratively and in partnership with a range of key stakeholders to support the delivery of this Plan. These stakeholders include but are not limited to the following – the neighbouring local authorities of Cavan, Donegal, Longford, Roscommon and Sligo, the Eastern and Midlands CARO, SEAI the Local Authority Services National Training Group, Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly, Local Government Management Agency, City and County Management Agency, Public Participation Network, Age Friendly Ireland, Comhairle na nÓg and other groups as identified in the Tables of Actions. These partnerships can provide opportunities for collaboration on projects, shared learnings, technical support and leveraging of funding opportunities during the implementation of actions in the Plan.

It is also clear that climate change is a transboundary challenge; it does not stop at political and geographical borders. As such, a regional approach has been agreed by the local authorities in the Eastern and Midlands CARO whereby they can collaborate closely on the implementation of the Climate Action Plans.

Following approval of the Plan, an Implementation Plan will be developed for each action, which will set out in detail how the action will be delivered including, noting the responsible department and timescales. Leitrim County Council will align the timing of internal implementation reporting intervals with that of sectoral progress reporting requirements. The Local Authority Climate Action Plan process has regard to high level Plans,

Programmes, Guidelines, and Legislation in the implementation stage of the Climate Action Plan.

5.2. Funding and Partnerships

To lead by example and drive the transition to a climate neutral society, Leitrim County Council will need access to adequate funding for climate action projects towards achieving its 2030 and 2050 targets. Local authorities can access various types of funding such as government grants, European funds, private sector investment and community co-financing. It is recognised that while new climate action targeted funding calls may become available in the future, already established funding bodies will introduce or increase the level of funding streams to climate action focused categories. Leitrim County Council will continue to actively pursue new and existing funding opportunities from both European and National bodies that are aligned with its climate action objectives.

Leitrim County Council supported and partnered with the ESB to install and launch two Electric Vehicle charge point at the Hive (Leitrim's Technology and Enterprise Centre). The new charging points will also support Leitrim Volunteer Centre, who have become part of a Community EV pilot programme. Their volunteer drivers will have use of a new Corsa-e for their daily trips.

Leitrim County Council was one of 18 successful projects in receiving funding under the Public Services Innovation Fund to conduct active research on identifying solutions for sustainable rural mobility. The project team is collaborating

with the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) to deliver the Last Green Mile active research project by end of November 2023. Leitrim County Council is responsible for delivering this project, managing the budget, payments to ATU Sligo and delivering a promotional campaign as part of the overall project.

These projects also complement the ongoing Sustainability Mobility Pathfinder project that Leitrim County Council is leading out on as prioritised by the Department of Transport Pathfinder programme.



Figure 34 Launch of EV Charge Point at the Hive

Partnerships are a key ingredient towards realising low carbon solutions for the sector. The private sector is already playing a role towards achieving the National Climate Objective and this type of collaboration can enhance the capabilities of the sector even further in achieving reductions in Ireland's greenhouse gases by 51% by 2030 and becoming climate neutral by no later than 2050.



Figure 35 Leitrim County Council involved in trial of E Bikes at a Business Campus in Carrick-on-Shannon

There are benefits for the local government sector in partnering with the Third Level sector. The Third Level sector can provide research and development expertise to help local authorities and implement innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. These partnerships can also help local authorities access funding opportunities for climate action projects and initiatives. Leitrim County Council will encourage and facilitate collaboration with the private sector and Third Level education sector where possible and continue its efforts in rolling out ambitious climate action projects, drawing down available sources of funding, pursuing citizen and stakeholder engagement, all supported by a progressive policy framework.

5.3. Tracking Progress of Climate Actions

Leitrim County Council will track performance on the delivery of energy efficiency and emission

reductions relating its own infrastructure and assets, as prescribed by national climate obligations through the established Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system managed by the Sustainable Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

Strengthened climate action policy at national level inspired a determined response and commitment by local government, as a sector. This commitment is set out in the County and City Management Association (CCMA) published strategy on behalf of local government entitled **Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030**. Leitrim County Council will communicate progress on the delivery of actions through Sectoral Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This contributes to informing the performance of the local government sector on climate action across Ireland.

A key consideration for the local government sector on this strengthened role on climate action is accountability, and in particular the ability to track, measure and report on progress in delivering effective climate action at both local authority and sectoral levels. In this regard, tracking progress against KPIs will continue to play a significant role in successful delivery of actions in achieving targets.

The CAROs along with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) collect data on an annual basis relating to a range of themes including:

- Climate Action Resources
- Climate Action Training for local authority staff and elected members

- Actions delivered
- Enterprise support in areas of climate action
- Energy efficiency
- Emission reductions
- Active travel measures
- Severe weather response

KPIs will continue to be added as necessary by the sector to aid in tracking progress and Leitrim County Council will contribute relevant information as required, to assist in highlighting the progress of the local government sector on climate action.

5.4. Reporting Requirements and Arrangements

The reporting requirements can be summarised as outlined in Figure 36.

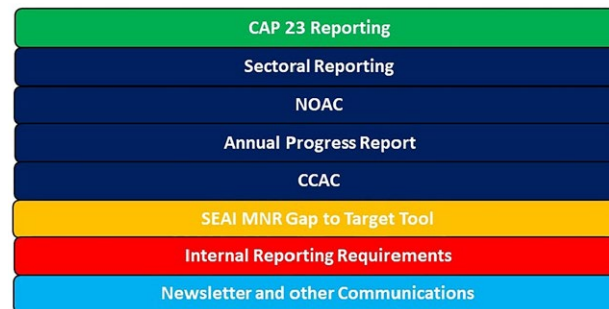


Figure 36 Reporting Requirements

5.4.1. Internal Reporting

To ensure that delivery is timely, the implementation of the Climate Action Plan will be monitored via an in-house tracking system. Leitrim County Council

will facilitate reporting to Elected Members on an annual basis and provide more regular updates as required through the Strategic Policy Committee on Climate Action and Agriculture. The Climate Action Team will present a review of the effectiveness of implementing the Climate Action Plan to Elected Members every 2 years.

5.4.2. Monitoring and Reporting System (M&R)

Leitrim County Council will continue to report on their energy performance and emission targets annually to the SEAI.

5.4.3. Sectoral Performance

Leitrim County Council will report annually on their performance on climate action by way of KPIs to inform the performance of the local government sector on climate action, as part of the local government DECA 2030 Strategy.

5.4.4. National Climate Action Plan

Leitrim County Council will in accordance with part 3(w) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter, report annually to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) on progress on climate action at local level as part of the delivery of the national climate objective. Progress on all actions will be reported via a reporting tool developed by CARO.

5.4.5. Sustainable Development Goals

Leitrim County Council is working to advance the SDGs (see Figure 8) through

- Showcasing, sharing and building on existing initiatives;
- Capacity building and awareness raising;
- Embedding the SDGs in Governance and reporting frameworks;
- Incorporating the SDGs within local planning frameworks
- Community Engagement

The climate action themes have been aligned to Sustainable Development Goals (**Figure 25, Figure 26, Figure 27, Figure 28, Figure 29**).

5.4.6. Oversight

While the Council will implement and monitor the Plan, oversight of this implementation will be via several parties through various existing mechanisms such as:

- SEAI seek ongoing information on energy and emissions from the Council and this will continue through Plan implementation;
- Similarly, the CARO will seek annual data and information from the Council to inform the national emissions inventory; and
- DECC will have oversight of the Plan implementation and may issue guidelines in respect of the Plan with which the Council must comply.

5.4.7. Collaboration

As noted in this Plan, the Council will take the actions required to reduce emissions from its core

operations and service delivery areas. There is also a need for collaborative community action from within the County to ensure that the Plan actions are delivered to help achieve national targets. The Council will support all citizens in transitioning County Leitrim into a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

Acronyms


| | | | | | |
|--------------|--|------------------------|---|---------------|---|
| AA | Appropriate Assessment | CCMA | County and City Management Association | DMURS | Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets |
| AAMP | Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme | CCRA | Climate Change Risk Assessment | DoT | Department of Transport |
| ACRES | Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme | C&D | Construction and Demolition | DRCD | Department of Rural and Community Development |
| AD | Anaerobic Digester | CDP | County Development Plan | DZ | Decarbonising Zone |
| AEP | Annual Exceedance Probability | CE | Chief Executive | E-BIKE | Electric Bicycle |
| ASDP | Annual Service Delivery Plans | CFRAM | Catchment Flood Risk Assessment & Management | EG | Environmental Governance |
| ATU | Atlantic Technological University | CO² | Carbon dioxide | EGD | European Green Deal |
| BB | Bord Bia | CO²E | Carbon dioxide equivalent | EI | Enterprise Ireland |
| BEI | Baseline Emissions Inventory | COP | Conference of the Parties | EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| BER | Building Energy Rating | CoS | Carrick-on-Shannon | EM | Elected Members |
| CAC | Climate Action Co-Ordinator | Cré | Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland | EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| CANN | Collaborative Action for Natura Network | CSO | Central Statistics Office | EPC | Energy Performance Contract |
| CAO | Climate Action Officer | CUWR | Connaught-Ulster Waste Region | ESB | Electricity Supply Board |
| CAP | Climate Action Plan | DAFM | Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine | ESBN | ESB Networks |
| CARO | Climate Action Regional Office | DECA | Delivering Effective Climate Action | ESRI | Economic & Social Research Institute |
| CCAC | Climate Change Advisory Council | DECC | Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications | EU | European Union |
| CCAF | Community Climate Action Fund | DHLGH | Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage | EV | Electric Vehicle |
| CCAO | Community Climate Action Officer | | | FAS | Flood Alleviation Scheme |
| CCAP | Climate Change Action Plan | | | FI | Fáilte Ireland |
| | | | | GAA | Gaelic Athletic Association |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|--|----------------|---|--------------|---|
| GEAI | Good Energies Alliance Ireland | LCC | Leitrim County Council | NSG | National Steering Group |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gases | LCDC | Local Community Development Committees | NSMP | National Sustainable Mobility Policy |
| GI | Green Infrastructure | LEADER | Leading Education and Development in Evolving Regions | NTA | National Transport Authority |
| GIS | Geographical Information System | LECP | Local Economic and Community Plan | NWCAR | Northwest Climate Action Region |
| GPP | Green Public Procurement | LGMA | Local Government Management Agency | NWRA | Northern and Western Regional Assembly |
| GSF | Green Space Factor | LIFE | L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement | NZEB | Nearly Zero Energy Building |
| GTT | Gap to Target | LULUCF | Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry | OPR | Office of Planning Regulator |
| HSE | Health Service Executive | LUPT | Land Use, Planning and Transportation | OSI | Ordinance Survey Ireland |
| ICT | Information & Communications Technology | LV | Leitrim Village | OPW | Office of Public Works |
| ICW | Integrated Constructed Wetland | MEM | Major Emergency Management | PMDS | Performance Management Development System |
| IFA | Irish Farmers Association | M&R | Monitoring and Reporting | PPN | Public Participation Network |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change | MSLETB | Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education Training Board | PV | Photovoltaic |
| IrBEA | Irish Bioenergy Association | MWH | Megawatt hour | RCP | Representative Concentration Pathway |
| IT | Information Technology | NAF | National Adaptation Framework | RSA | Road Safety Authority |
| IWAI | Inland Waterways Association of Ireland | NBS | Nature-Based Solutions | SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| KM | Kilometre | NDBC | National Biodiversity Data Centre | SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| KPI | Key Performance Indicators | NDCA | National Dialogue on Climate Action | SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| LA | Local Authority | NIR | Natura Impact report | SEAI | Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland |
| LACAP | Local Authority Climate Action Plan | NOAC | National Oversight and Audit Commission | SEC | Sustainable Energy Community |
| LAP | Local Area Plan | NPWS | National Parks & Wildlife Services | SEU | Significant Energy User |
| LASNTG | Local Authority Services National Training Group | | | SFRA | Strategic Flood Risk Assessment |
| LAWPRO | Local Authority Waters Programme | | | SG | Strategic Goals |
| | | | | SLEA | Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| SME | Small Medium Enterprise |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SPC | Strategic Policy Committee |
| SSMA | Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator |
| SuDS | Sustainable Drainage Systems |
| SWAT | Severe Weather Alert Team |
| TFI | Transport for Ireland |
| TII | Transport Infrastructure Ireland |
| TOC | The Organic Centre |
| TPER | Total Primary Energy Requirement |
| UE | Uisce Éireann |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| WERLA | Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority |
| WEEE | Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive |
| WI | Waterways Ireland |
| WIRE | Weather Impact Register |
| ZEB | Zero Energy Building |
| ZEVI | Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland |



Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

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