



Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received to the Wexford County Council Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

January 2024

Climate Action team,

Environment and Climate Change Section,

Wexford County Council

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

Wexford County Council has prepared a Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. The Draft Plan sets out mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to create a low carbon and climate resilient County. This is aligned to 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.

The Draft Plan includes a range of actions across the five action areas of Governance & Leadership, Built Environment & Transport, Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure, Communities: Resilience & Transition, and Sustainability & Resource Management.

Pursuant to Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, notice of the preparation of the Wexford County Council Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, was given on 10th October 2023. Submissions or observations with regard to the Draft Plan and Environmental Reports (Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment) were invited for a period of just over 6 weeks, from 10th October 2023 to 21st November 2023, inclusive.

In accordance with the requirements of the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021, this Chief Executive's Report summarises and details the outcome of the Public Consultation process on the Draft Climate Action Plan, as follows:

- lists the persons, organisations or bodies who made submissions or observations on the Draft Climate Action Plan;
- summarises the issues raised by the persons, organisations or bodies in the submissions or observations;
- gives the response and recommendation of the Chief Executive to the issues raised; and
- outlines any proposed modifications to the Draft Plan, on foot of the Public Consultation process.

This Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received is hereby submitted to the Elected Members of the Local Authority, for their consideration. The Elected Members have up to 6 weeks to consider this Chief Executive's Report, in accordance with the requirements of the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021. Elected Members will be briefed in January 2024 to provide an overview of the Chief Executive's Report. The approval of the Climate Action plan will be on the agenda of monthly meeting of Wexford County Council on 12th February 2024 where it will be decided by resolution, whether to:

- approve, or
- approve, subject to such modifications as they consider appropriate, the local authority climate action plan.

Within thirty (30) days of the approval of the final local authority Climate Action Plan by the Elected Members, the Council will publish the final plan. The Climate Action Plan shall have effect for a period of five years from the date on which it is approved by the Elected Members.

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment

An Environmental Report accompanies the Draft Climate Action Plan. The Environmental Report contains a detailed analysis of the Draft Climate Action Plan and how the implementation of the Plan would impact on its receiving environment. The Chief Executive's recommendations as set out in this report (including recommendations on the Environmental Authorities submissions detailed in Section 4, have been assessed to determine whether they would have any significant impact on the environment. Considering the mitigation measures which have already been integrated into the Draft Plan, it is considered that the modifications proposed on foot of recommendations in this Chief Executive's Report, will not have any significant adverse effect on the environment.

SEA Determination post revision to Draft CAP

Following assessment of the criteria and having regard to the nature of the Modifications to the Draft LACAP and the potential for likely significant environmental effects associated with the Modifications, Wexford County Council has concluded that the Modifications to the Draft LACAP will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment. This determination has been made following consideration of the information contained in an SEA Screening Report for the Modifications to the Draft LACAP, and the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to S.I. 435/2004, as amended.

Appropriate Assessment In accordance with requirements under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) the Draft Climate Action Plan and modifications proposed on foot of this Chief Executive's Report have been screened, to assess whether they would have a significant effect on one or more Natura 2000 sites. It is considered that the Draft Plan and modifications proposed on foot of the Chief Executive's recommendations, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, will not have any significant effect on any Natura 2000 sites.

AA Determination post revision to Draft CAP

Modifications to the Draft LACAP were made following a review of the issues raised during a period of prescribed public consultation period for the Draft LACAP from 10 October 2023 to 21 November 2023 and subsequent consideration by Wexford County Council. Following assessment and having regard to the nature of the Modifications to the Draft LACAP and the potential for likely significant environmental effects associated with the Modifications, Wexford County Council concluded, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the Modifications to the Draft LACAP will not give rise to any likely significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. An AA Screening Determination was made in relation to this effect.

The Elected Members shall give approval for the Climate Action Plan, only after having determined that the Plan shall not adversely affect the integrity of a European Site(s) in line with SI 477 (EU Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended.

1.3 Background to the Climate Action Plan

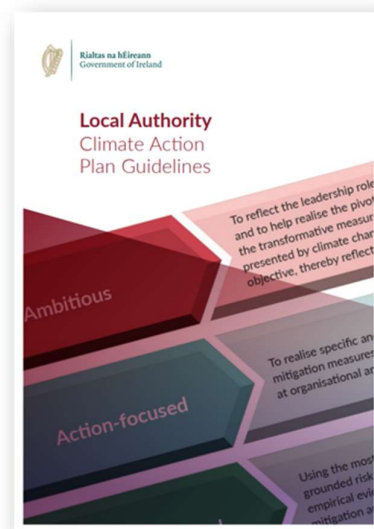
The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 specifically requires all local authorities in Ireland to prepare and approve a Climate Action Plan, in

consideration of wider national climate and energy targets, addressing both mitigation and adaptation measures. This is aligned to 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. The Draft Plan demonstrates a coherent approach to climate action across the administrative and political structure of the local authority.

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

- to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030, and can influence, co-ordinate, facilitate and advocate for all other sectors to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030
- 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; and
- 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.

The Draft Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, developed in response to Section 16 of the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021, with the aim of supporting local authorities in both the content and preparation of their Local Authority Climate Action Plans. The Guidelines were issued by the Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications in March 2023.



The Draft Plan sets out how Wexford 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’, ‘coordinating and facilitating’ and ‘advocating’ for 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 Council will also 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.

Community Climate Action Programme. This was carried out to maximise the Climate Action Team's outreach to all stakeholders. The activities included:

- Meetings with the elected members
- Meetings, workshops and other communication with council staff
- Information and Feedback Sessions with secondary school students - every secondary school in Wexford was invited to participate.
- A Climate Action Event which included a day of presentations with experts from various climate related fields
- Online survey to assess the climate action priorities for the people of Wexford
- Open call for Pre-Consultation submissions/expressions of interest via Wexford County Council's Online Portal
- Public meetings, information sessions, seminars.
- Council meetings
- Newsletter
- Advertising/PR activities including print advertising, radio interviews, social media posts and direct emails.



Attendees at the Biodiversity and Food Session at Climate Action Day

Stakeholders included:

- Accelerating Change Together (ACT)
- Arts Council of Ireland
- Climate Action Regional Office (South Eastern) (CARO)
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
- Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAGSM)
- Department of Transport (DoT)
- Electric Ireland Super Homes
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)
- High Performance Building Alliance (HPBA)
- Iarnród Éireann
- Inland Fisheries
- Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG)
- Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)
- Local Enterprise Office (LEO)
- Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)
- Met Éireann
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPW)
- National Transport Authority (NTA)
- Office of Public Works (OPW)
- Office of the Planning Regulator
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)
- Public Participation Network
- Rosslare Europort
- Southern Regional Assembly
- Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)
- Sustainable Energy Communities
- The Heritage Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
- Uisce Éireann
- Wexford Bus
- Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI)

Medium used by Wexford County Council to engage key stakeholders included:

- Local Newspaper Notice – Wexford People
- Local Radio – Interview South East Radio
- Social Media Posts
- Wexford County Council Website
- Wexford PPN
- Establishment of Climate Action Newsletter
- Communication with Statutory Stakeholders
- Public display in County buildings, Municipal Offices and all 5 Wexford Libraries.
- Presentations to the Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee
- Presentations to the elected members of Wexford County Council
- Notification of adjoining County Councils
- The Climate Action Regional Office engaged with the Departments responsible for the development of sectoral adaptation plans inviting them to review the local authority adaptation strategies and make submissions.
- The Climate Action Regional Office also identified key high-level stakeholders according to their importance and relevance to the subject matter of Local Authority Adaptation Strategies and invited them to review the Local Authority Adaptation Strategies and to make submissions.
- Online survey of the Wexford public to ascertain what matters to the people of Wexford and which strategies and action areas were of highest priority and significance to them.

- In person Climate Action Day at County Hall, with presentations around the key action areas in the Climate Action Plan.
- Extensive internal and external meetings with stakeholders.

Stakeholder engagement began in April 2023 with a briefing to the Executive Management Team and the Elected Members of the Council, along with a presentation to the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee (CCBDEnv SPC) outlining the requirement to develop the Draft Climate Action Plan, including the process and timelines involved.

Key to the Climate Action Plan are the actions that each department/section of the council will undertake in order to address its own environmental impact and emissions. The Climate Action Team engaged with the Senior Management team and each Department, through meetings and workshops, to develop actions for the Draft Plan. Sections identified areas for improvement and produced actions to be undertaken over the life of the action plan. The agreed actions can be viewed in Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 of the Draft Climate Action Plan.

Updates on the process were provided at various intervals through the Chief Executive Monthly Report. A further engagement session took place with the Elected Members and the CCBDEnv SPC to review Climate actions, in September 2023. Engagement with internal teams continued and challenges facing the County in terms of climate adaptation and mitigation were considered.

The development (and implementation) of the climate action plan involves dedicated working groups with the input of local authority resources which have been assigned to develop the plan. This is supported by strong leadership, commitment, and accountability by the organisation. Input was received from the following Service Areas at both the advance planning stage and during the statutory plan making process.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate, • Community Development, • Economic Development, • IT, • Environment, • Water Services, • Planning, • Housing, • Finance, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Offices (Municipal Districts), • Roads/Transportation, • Heritage, • Biodiversity, • Facilities, • Libraries, • Arts and Culture, • Fire & Emergency Services |
|--|---|



Advertisement for Public Climate Action Event

2.3 Public Information Events

The Draft Climate Action Plan was approved for public consultation (See Appendix III: Public Notice of Draft Plan Public Consultation) by the elected members of Wexford County Council on October 9th 2023, following a rigorous consultation process with elected members which included a special meeting for the purpose of addressing the Draft Plan prior to public consultation.

The Statutory Public Consultation period on the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 began on October 10, 2023, and ended at 5pm on November 21, 2023. In addition to the public engagement and consultation that took place prior to the publication of the draft, specific consultation events took place to ensure that our statutory obligations were fully met (see Table 1).

DATE	VENUE	ATTENDEES
23.10.2023	Wexford Library	6
23.10.2023	Stella Maris, Kilmore Quay	1
24.10.2023	Gorey Library	3
24.10.2023	Enniscorthy Library	0
25.10.2023	New Ross Library	0

Table 1: List of Climate Action Plan Public Information Events Held in each Municipal District in County Wexford.


At these drop-in sessions the public were able to access the plan and to discuss their concerns with the Climate Actions Team.

Along with these events, printed copies of the documents (listed below) were available for the full period of the consultation, in all five of County Wexford's Libraries, Wexford Town, Bunclody, New Ross, Enniscorthy, and Gorey and the County Hall building and Municipal Districts


- Draft Climate Action Plan,
- Wexford County Council Strategic Environmental Assessment,
- Wexford County Council Natura Impact Report,
- Wexford County Council Stakeholder Engagement Report,
- Wexford Climate Change Risk Assessment Report,
- County Wexford Tier 2 Baseline Emissions Report and the
- Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone Tier 3 Baseline Emission Inventory Report

Copies were also available from the council's consultation portal.



DRAFT Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 Public Consultation

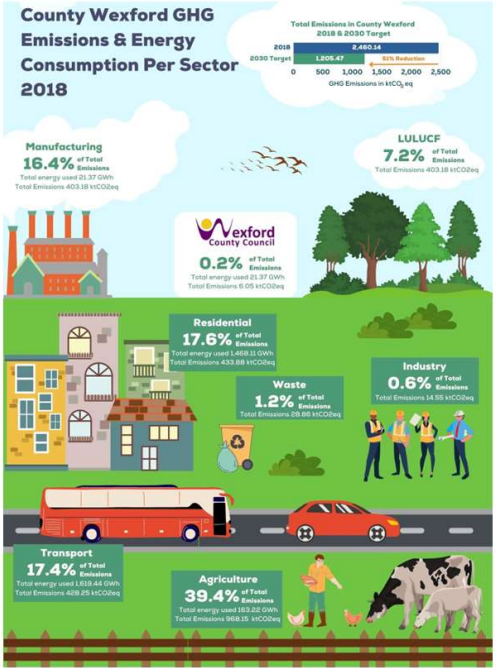


Have your say by scanning here to access the public consultation portal on the Wexford County Council Website OR
Ask a member of staff for access to the print version here.



<https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/>



Copy of the Poster used in County Wexford Libraries to advertise the Public Consultation

Notice was a placed in the local paper (Wexford People) in the weekly edition published on October 18, 2023, advertising the consultation.

The Climate Action Coordinator and Environmental Education Officer were interviewed on South East Radio on the November 18 2023, where the Plan and consultation were promoted.

The council's social media was used to promote the consultation. Information was available on the Wexford County Council website in addition to the consultation portal.

A mailing list was created following the Climate Action Event on June 1st. A monthly Climate Action newsletter is published with updates on the plan and other Climate related information.

An update on the draft plan and the public consultation process was provided on 13th November at the Wexford Environment Awards. There were 61 community groups, representatives from 11 schools, 31 Councillors, 3 TDs and other invited stakeholders such as An Taisce and DECC in attendance at this event.

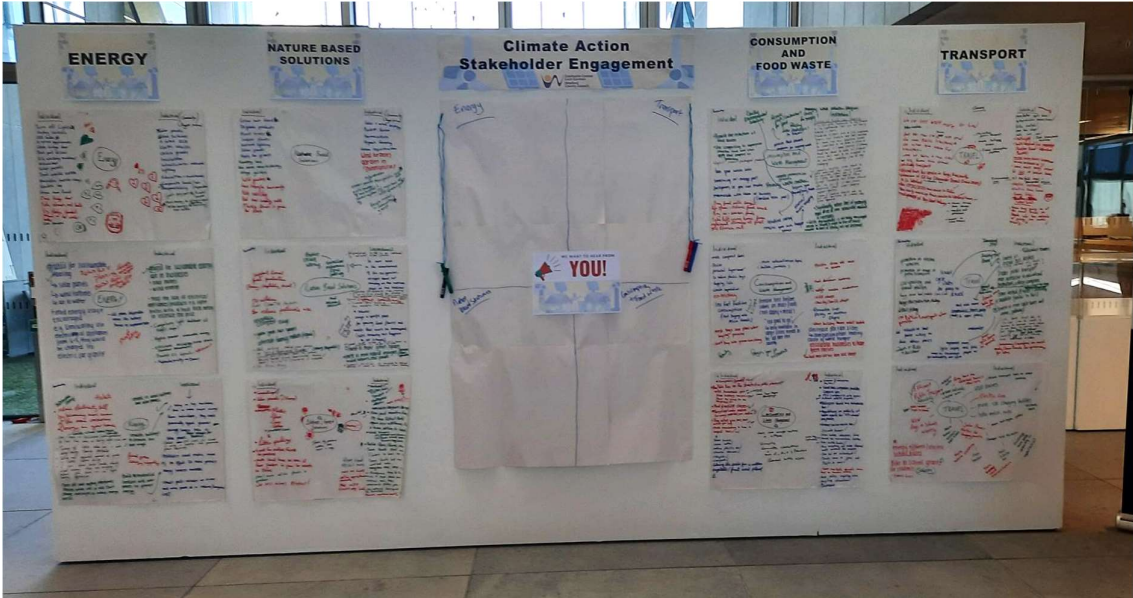
2.4 Engagement with Key Stakeholders and Young People

An invitation was extended to all Secondary Schools in County Wexford to input to the preparation of the Climate Action Plan. The schools that were available to participate were:

Enniscorthy (10th May)	Meánscoil Gorman FCJ Bunclody
Wexford Town (11th May)	Loreto Wexford Presentation Wexford Selskar College
Gorey Schools (16th May)	Creagh College Gorey Educate Together
New Ross (17th May)	Our Lady of Lourdes

The students were very well informed about the issues of Climate Change and clearly knowledgeable on issues like rewilding, energy, recycling, the origin of clothes and 'fast fashion'. They brought real insight and made a very valuable contribution to the process.

A modified Global Café format was employed for this consultation. The students identified climate priorities. Meta-analysis was then completed, to collate the input and responses from all the sessions into the results below (more detail on the results can be found in our Climate Action Pre-Draft Consultation Stakeholder Engagement Report, published as part of the Statutory Consultation Process. The consultation was broken up into similar action areas to the draft plan, specifically Transport, Energy, Nature based solutions and consumption and waste management.



Information Board (on display in County Hall) showing the outcome of engagement activities in Wexford Schools

3 Details of the Submissions

3.1 Introduction

A total of 20 valid submissions and observations were received, the breakdown of which is shown in Table 2.

Submission Type	Number
Online Portal Submissions	17
Posted/Handed Submissions	2
Email Submissions	1
Total Submissions	20

Table 2: Breakdown of submissions received to the Climate Action Plan by contact method.

All valid submissions and observations were read, analysed and summarised. An overview of issues raised is provided in Section 3.3. The categorisation and summary of issues raised, together with the Chief Executive's (CE) response and recommendations, is contained in Section 4.

Note: The headings relating to the categorisation and summary of issues raised, together with the Chief Executive's response and recommendations, follows that of the headings of the Draft Climate Action Plan document.

3.2 List of Persons, Organisations and Bodies who made Submissions

Appendix II lists the persons, organisations and bodies that made submissions. Each submission has been assigned an independent reference number.

3.3 Summary of Issues Raised in Submissions

There were 20 valid submissions and observations received for the Draft Wexford County Council Draft Climate Action Plan. These were read, analysed and summarised. They are listed in Table 3 below, in the order in which they were received. Table 3 is a full summary of all of the issues raised in the submissions, together with the responses and recommendations of the Chief Executive. The majority of the issues raised in the submissions fall under the headings of energy, biodiversity, just transition, nature-based solutions, cross sectoral co-operation, community and transport.

3.4 Chief Executive's Responses and Recommendations

The Chief Executive has prepared a response and recommendation. The listing and format of the categorisation follows the reference number and is in order of receipt and includes a summary and responses to the issues raised.

This Chief Executive report examines issues raised in the submissions and observations, in the context of their relevance to the purpose and scope of the Draft Climate Action Plan, seeks to incorporate new/additional provisions where they are relevant to the purpose of the Plan, its implementation and do not have a negative impact on the broader environmental considerations of the area.

In the interests of clarity, issues raised in submissions and observations that:

- do not sit within the scope of the Draft Climate Action Plan;
- go beyond its scope but lie within the scope of the local authority;
- go beyond the functions of the local authority; and/or
- are not directly related to the provisions of the Draft Plan or climate actions,

will be subject to general commentary where appropriate and may not be considered further to help inform the provisions or actions of the final Climate Action Plan.

Among the issues specifically not addressed, commented on or responded to in this report, include matters relating to planning applications, development sites or specific local authority projects undertaken. Such matters are best addressed under the various planning processes including development management, forward planning etc. Matters that are considered helpful to frame future policy will be considered, where such considerations do not undermine the integrity of the functions and processes stated above.

3.5 Structure of Proposed Modifications to the Plan

Amendments to the text of the Draft Climate Action Plan are identified by their location within the Draft Plan i.e. Section 1 Executive Summary.

As stated in Section 3.4.2 of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, 'a modification in this instance is an alteration that is considered non-material and does not compromise the integrity of the plan-making process to that point or the SEA and AA processes that have informed the plan' (Government of Ireland, 2023).

Furthermore, given the statutory twelve (12) month duration of the Plan making process, as set out in Section 16 of the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021, a Material Amendment public consultation phase, is not provided for under the legislation.

Non-material modifications to the text of the Draft Climate Action Plan are shown in **green text**, for example:

The implementation, monitoring and future updates of the local authority Climate Action Plan will be consistent with and have regard to the national Climate Action Plan and any future such Plans.

Deletions to the text of the Draft Climate Action Plan are shown in **red text with strikethrough**, for example:

~~**The Council shall adopt the following actions in regard to domestic waste.**~~

4 Categorisation, Summary and Responses to Issues Raised

Following the publication of the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan, the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) requested that prefixes to the Actions be standardised across Local Authorities.

The following changes have been made:

GL - Governance and Leadership – previously A

BET – Built Environment and Transport – previously B

NEGI – Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure, previously C

CRT – Community Resilience and Transition, previously D

SRM – Sustainability and Resource Management, previously E.

Please note where submissions highlighted planning related issues, the Climate Action Plan was not modified if these issues are already referenced in the Co. Development Plan

Table 3: Summary of key issues raised in each submission, the response to that issue and the overall recommendation regarding the Climate Action Plan.

Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-1 Individual	Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from Seán Thim O’Leary and acknowledges the content and observations received.	
WXF-C170-1 Individual	1.B24 – ‘might be better served by specifying specific desirable numeric goals under KPI’ e.g. Average rail speeds, improving vehicles etc.	1. The addition of more specific KPIs in this action is outside the scope of the CAP. The remit of Wexford County Council is to influence, co-ordinate and advocate.
WXF-C170-1 Individual	2.B24 – ‘better served by expressing keen desire to integrate modes of public transport such that rural villages can enjoy rail services’ and link to TFI local services	2. Action BET 24 (previously B24) addresses this through the All Island Strategic Rail Review.

<p>WXF-C170-1 Individual</p>	<p>3. B24 – maybe need a new action – ‘advocate for freight rail going forward’.</p>	<p>3. Action BET 24 addresses this through the All Island Strategic Rail Review.</p> <p>The All Island Strategic Rail Review (AISRR) relates to this action with Rosslare Europort and Wexford referenced in the report.</p> <p>The review which was completed by consultants ARUP identifies the constraints for the county's rail system and proposes a number of recommendations to grow the Island's rail freight Industry through short, medium and long-term interventions.</p> <p>Changes to the Rail Network are outside the scope of the Climate Action Plan and the remit of Wexford County Council is to influence, co-ordinate and advocate.</p>
<p>WXF-C170-1 Individual</p>	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>No modification is proposed to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on the basis of this submission for the reasons set out above.</p>	
<p>Submission</p>	<p>Key Comments</p>	<p>Response & Recommendation</p>
<p>WXF-C170-2 Individual</p>	<p>Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from Lea Bonheim and acknowledges the content and observations received.</p>	
<p>WXF-C170-2 Individual</p>	<p>1.Reduce meat consumption.</p>	<p>1.The sectoral Adaptation Strategy from Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine deals with Agriculture and this comment is outside the scope of the Climate Action Plan.</p>

		Amend Action D5 (now CRT 5) to include communities and community allotments to support local food/vegetable production. KPIs – increase in number % of gardens/allotments.
WXF-C170-2 Individual	2. Promote ecologically sound farming including citizen participation in food festivals, allotments & farmers markets.	2.The following actions in the CAP address this submission and support community driven food production NEGI 19 (amended), NEGI 21, NEGI 22 & CRT 1(The Community Climate Action Programme has a specific theme on Food & Waste that is actively encouraged by Wexford County Council).
WXF-C170-2 Individual	<u>CE Recommendation</u> Amend Action D5 (now CRT 5) to include communities and community allotments to support local food/vegetable production. An additional KPI is added to CRT 5 – Percentage increase in number of gardens/allotments.	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	The EPA is one of the statutory environmental authorities under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations. As an SEA environmental authority, the EPA focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from the EPA and acknowledges the content and observations received.	
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	1. The SEA should also assist in identifying ways to maximise the potential co-benefits of climate-related measures for air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and	1. It is noted that the Draft SEA Environmental Report (ER) has defined Environmental Governance Principles and action amendment suggestions to ensure climate action co-benefit

	other interrelated areas (i.e., win-win solutions).	opportunities are maximized. Various defined mitigation measures serve to promote win-win solutions.
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	2. We recommend that the findings of the SEA ER and NIS are fully reflected in the Plan, to ensure that the relevant recommendations are fully considered and integrated as appropriate.	2. Environmental mitigation measures in the form of Environmental Governance Principles and climate action amendment suggestions have been fully integrated into the Plan itself.
WXF-C170-3 EPA	3. Under the SEA regs should consult with EPA, DHLGH, DECC and DAFM.	3. All listed Environmental Authorities have been consulted with as part of the SEA process.
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	4. You should ensure that the Non-Technical Summary includes the relevant information as required under Schedule 2 of S.I No. 435 of 2004, as amended.	4. The requirements of Schedule 2 of SI No 435 have been noted and amendments to the NTS will be made as appropriate.
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	5. Plan should include a commitment to consider any relevant updated actions – that may arise from updates to the National Climate Action Plan and remain aligned with high level plans and programmes, Guidelines, and legislation over its lifetime including but not limited to the State of Environment Report, Ireland's Environment - An Integrated Assessment.	5. The Council has included a commitment in the Plan to remain aligned to the national Climate Action Plan and National Planning Framework and other relevant high-level plans, policies, programmes updates and report recommendations over the lifetime of the Plan under Section 4.4 Item 6.
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	6. We recommend that in considering strategic environmental objectives, they should where possible reflect the plan being prepared, rather than use more generic environmental objectives. This will help both	6. The Strategic Environmental Objectives defined have been very specifically drafted to reflect the themes, goals, objectives and climate action contained in the plan and in light of the

	in considering more specific monitoring and mitigation measures, when required.	potential environmental effects associated with Plan implementation.
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	7. Where the potential for likely significant effects has been identified, you should provide appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimise these.	7. Mitigation has also been achieved by the integration of environmental considerations into the defined LACAP climate actions. These mitigation measures have been wholly integrated into the CAP. Section 8 of the SEA ER provides full detail of these environmental mitigation measures.
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	8. You should also ensure that the Plan includes clear commitments to implement the relevant mitigation measures.	8. Chapter 6 clearly indicates Wexford County Councils commitment to the implementation and monitoring of the mitigation and adaptation measures and has provided details on the tracking and reporting of same.
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	9. The Monitoring Programme should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It should consider and deal with the possibility of cumulative effects. Monitoring of both positive and negative effects should be considered.	9. The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the Draft LACAP is contained in the SEA ER. This monitoring programme has been developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled ' <i>Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring</i> ' (2020). The monitoring programme is multi-faceted, broad in scope and has been designed to allow for a flexible and adaptive approach to SEA monitoring during Plan implementation. The monitoring programme has been designed to inherently measure cumulative effects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. This Plan considers both positive and negative effects.
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	10. The monitoring programme should set out the various data sources, monitoring frequencies and responsibilities.	10. The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources to be used to monitor and measure progress. Some additional detail on data sources has however been provided to better guide the SEA monitoring to be carried

		out across plan implementation and will be added to the SEA report.
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	11. Consider taking in to account the EPA's 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind' when finalising the plan.	11. Reference to the EPA's 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind' is included in Chapter 6 in Section 6.1.
WXF-C170-3 Environmental Protection Agency	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>The Council has included a commitment in the Plan to remain aligned to the national Climate Action Plan and National Planning Framework and other relevant high level plans, policies, programmes updates and report recommendations over the lifetime of the Plan. This is added as Point 6 under Section 4.4.</p> <p>Reference to the EPA's 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind' include in Chapter 6 in Section 6.1.</p>	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-4 Wexford Local Development (LEADER)	Wexford Local Development (WLD) delivers a range of interlinked programmes on behalf of local and national Government to address the needs of individuals and communities across Wexford. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from the Wexford Local Development and acknowledges the content and observations received.	
WXF-C170-4 Wexford Local Development (LEADER)	The Local Development Strategy (LDS) acknowledges that training and best practice supports are necessary to ensure Wexford achieves maximum progress in the key area of Climate Action. Cross cutting LDS objectives including funding support for awareness creation and training, protection of local biodiversity, sustainable building and renewable practices, increased activity in the circular economy, and greening	<p>The Climate Action Team will collaborate with WLD to provide cohesive support and guidance to community groups in relation to the most appropriate climate action funding streams.</p> <p>Wexford County Council welcomes WLDs support and funding for future community awareness, training, and engagement events.</p> <p>The following actions in the CAP address this submission.</p>

	<p>businesses will contribute towards meeting specific climate action targets for Wexford. The LDS acknowledges that training and best practice supports are necessary to ensure Wexford achieves maximum progress in this key area.</p> <p>One of the three themes of the incoming LEADER Programme is Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment, Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation. LEADER will support up to five communities to complete biodiversity action plans to preserve and protect biodiversity in their communities. Joint animation opportunities identified with the WCC Climate Action Team will include workshops where tangible examples of best practice will be showcased to communities interested in taking positive action around climate change. This will include biodiversity, climate adaptation and mitigation best practice.</p> <p>LEADER will design and deliver biodiversity awareness training programmes for communities and individuals (including farmers) focused on the value and protection of Wexford's Natura 2000 sites. Uniquely, this programme will be open to all members of the public, not just 3 community groups. Learnings will empower those living</p>	<p>GL 2, BET 17, NEGI 7, NEGI 23, NEGI 26, CRT 1, CRT 2, CRT 11, SRM 1, SRM 4.</p>
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	<p>in or near Wexford's Natura sites to value and protect these areas. Capital supports for up to five communities for biodiversity measures and environmental improvements including parks, nature corridors and community gardens will be provided. LEADER will support up to twenty communities with capital grants and feasibility studies that reduce the carbon footprint of community buildings and/or the wider community, facilitating climate change mitigation.</p> <p>A limited budget will be allocated towards encouraging expanding businesses to incorporate climate change limiting measures that will mitigate environmental impact and reduce their carbon footprint.</p>	
<p>WXF-C170-4 Wexford Local Development (LEADER)</p>	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>No modification is proposed to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on the basis of this submission for the reasons set out above.</p>	
<p>Submission</p>	<p>Key Comments</p>	<p>Response & Recommendation</p>
<p>WXF-C170-5 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine(DAFM)</p>	<p>Ireland's seafood industry (fishing and aquaculture) is one of the key stakeholders operating in the marine area and plays a vital role in the sustainability of our coastal communities. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from the DAFM and acknowledges the content and observations received.</p>	

<p>WXF-C170-5 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)</p>	<p>1. CAP should 'continue to support initiatives to improve understanding of our marine area and ensure sustainable use, include through bio and circular economies'. The Sectoral Adaptation Plan (<u>Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan</u>) and the annual Climate Action Plan (<u>CAP23</u>) require consideration in the SEA process.</p>	<p>1. The National Climate Action Plan (2023) and Sectoral Adaptation Plans have been considered in the SEA Process. The relationship of the Plan with other relevant Plans and Programmes has been defined in Appendix 1 of the SEA. Inter-plan cumulative effects have been evaluated in Section 7 of the Draft SEA ER. Communication on the Energy transition of Fisheries and Aquaculture will be updated in Section 3.4 and Appendix 2 of NIR.</p>
<p>WXF-C170-5 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)</p>	<p>2. For consideration in the SEA process is the European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector as part of its Fisheries Policy Package. This proposes the establishment of the Energy Transition Partnership to create a roadmap for the energy transition of the sector, setting out investment needs, sector initiatives and inform policy decisions. Local authorities should include relevant steps to support a Just Transition for the sea fisheries and aquaculture sectors in their Climate Action Plans.</p>	<p>2. Local authorities in Ireland do not have a direct remit over the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The actions defined in the Plan are aligned with the vision and measures defined in European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Insofar as the local authority's remit extends, The plan supports the protection and enhancement of the marine environment. The climate action defined in the plan has the potential to generate multiple climate action benefits, and co-benefits for the water and biodiversity environments and by extension the marine environment (i.e. biodiversity conservation and enhancement, coastal protection, water quality protection and improvements etc.).</p>
	<p>3. Food Security and aquaculture.</p>	<p>3. Food security in terms of other climate action has been raised elsewhere in the submissions. Not directly addressed.</p>
	<p>4. Sustainable resource use in the sector.</p>	<p>4-5 The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) adopted the Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan. Just transition for the</p>

	<p>5. ‘Local authorities should include relevant steps to support a Just Transition for the sea fisheries and aquaculture sectors in their Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>Seafood Sector is incorporated in DAFM’s Plan and is outside the direct control of Wexford County Council. However Wexford County Council is committed to influencing and advocating with all sectors and engaging in partnerships on Climate Action.</p> <p>WCC supports the just transition for the seafood sector and acknowledges the contribution the sector makes to coastal communities. It has and continues to install and upgrade shore side power outlets in accordance with the principle of “cold ironing”, which is in line with the National Climate Action Plan</p> <p><i>-“Cold ironing”, or shore connection, shore-to-ship power or alternative maritime power(the process of providing shoreside electrical power to a ship at berth while its main and auxiliary engines are turned off).</i></p>
	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>In relation to Item No. 2 the NIR and SEA reports have been updated to reference the European Commission’s Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.</p> <p>An additional paragraph on Just Transition has been added to section 4.3 on Communities, Resilience and transition.</p> <p>The reference to “Cold ironing”, relates to Just transition.</p> <p>An Action specific to Just transition for the county of Wexford has been incorporated into Table 4.1 Action CRT 15.</p>	

Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-6 Individual	A detailed submission was received in relation to planning, flooding, roads and green areas under the theme of Climate and Biodiversity Action. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from this individual and acknowledges the content and observations received	
WXF-C170-6 Individual	<p>1. Planning - limits are required on house sizes (overall square footage/metres including attached or detached garages) in planning approvals, even if it's something that has to be discussed nationally, though of course individuals could decide for themselves, that smaller is better. Currently in Rural and Urban areas in particular, large houses (mansions) are being built, some with two storey or twin garages, when what we really need are decent but modest scale (up to 2000 sq. ft.) builds to A1 or passive house standard, to help combat climate change.</p> <p>Construction is a major cause of climate change, from the building materials for the build, to all the fixtures, fittings and furniture required, not to mention the on-going maintenance, heating and lighting requirements. It's all about reducing climate change, not increasing our build size, regardless of the size of our wallet or our mortgage.</p>	<p>1. Limits on house sizes and construction</p> <p>While appropriate house sizes are considered in the County Development Plan (CDP) and assessed on the suitability of the site to accommodate the proposed dwelling house, they are not assessed for climate/circular economy reasons. These concerns are noted and are appropriate for discussion at national level for later possible policy development and application across the codes of planning, building control and circular economy/waste management.</p> <p>In the CDP, objective CA13 in Volume 1 Written Statement – Chapter 2 Climate Action requires new developments to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change by ensuring they are appropriately located, sited and designed to accommodate predicted future climate change impacts. Objective CA20, which is also an action (NEGI 9) in the Draft Climate Action Plan, is to prepare a Climate Proofing Matrix that will be submitted with planning applications to allow the proposed development to demonstrate how it incorporates climate change mitigation and adaptation, where relevant.</p> <p>A1/Passive House Standards - All new dwellings must meet nearly zero energy building standards (NZEB) in line with the</p>

		European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive Recast. The NZEB requirements equate to an A2 BER
WXF-C170-6 Individual	2. All planning applications, but particularly in urban and Rural areas, it should be mandatory to include rainwater harvesting/storage tanks, the water to be used for everything except drinking and cooking and maybe bathing. It can only be good for climate change if we have smaller water treatment facilities and less chemicals to treat water, and would put less pressure on water supplies in drought situations, which are becoming more common	2. Rainwater harvesting is just one of many practices that are indicated within Actions CRT1 and CRT5 in the Plan. The County Development Plan promotes rainwater harvesting promoted, as follows, in Volume 2 Development Management Manual – Section 8.2.3 Water Conservation: “The inclusion of water conservation measures is promoted in new developments. Proposals for re-use/recycling of water on commercial and industrial sites with high water usage will be promoted. Developments are encouraged to include proposals for rainwater harvesting the design of which should have regard to BS 8515: 2009 Rainwater Harvesting Systems – Code of Practice. Rainwater butts which are containers for collecting rainwater from roofs and downpipes could also be installed in new residential developments”.
WXF-C170-6 Individual	3. Flooding - modern farming practises have led to the destruction of lots of ditches and hedgerows to make fields bigger, which provided a natural barrier to slow down and prevent water runoff from land, and/or reduce the amount of water that gathers in low lying areas. These ditches gave water a chance to soak into the land before surplus water joins streams and rivers, causing pollution of waterways from chemicals used on land and reduces the flooding and	3. The submission uses an example of farmers removing ditches. Article 8D of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) states that “Works consisting of the removal for the purposes of agriculture of field boundaries including stone walls, clay banks or wire or post fences shall be exempted development” (unless the lands are located within a special amenity area – there are no such designated areas in the county). The County Development Plan (CDP) is very much focused on protecting, restoring and enhancing biodiversity and green

	<p>destruction of property, reducing rebuild and refitting costs and reducing climate change.</p> <p>There is also the issue of water lying on or flowing onto roads even though the bulk of the road is dry, this is mainly due to water flowing off sloping land through gateways, ditches that have been removed at the roadside and replaced by fencing and sometimes directed onto roadways from the drives of private houses which should not be happening, but it is allowed to happen. Persons directing or allowing water onto roads need to be compelled to install drainage and soakaways on their property to prevent water flowing onto roads.</p> <p>We need to go backwards to go forwards on this issue like most things to reduce climate change and in this instance to engage with necessary stakeholders to reinstate ditches in fields, in particular across sloping ground to slow down runoff and to plant trees on the upslope side of the ditches to soak up the constantly increasing amounts of water that will gather there. Ditches would also reduce the amounts of water left on roadways, as lying water is bad for both roads (increasing maintenance) and for driving.</p>	<p>infrastructure (including hedgerows and ditches), and this is a consideration in all relevant planning applications.</p> <p>CDP Volume 1 Written Statement – Chapter 11 Landscape and Green Infrastructure incorporates a suite of objectives including Objective GI01 which relates to the protection of the natural environment and the role of green infrastructure. This objective contains a list of criteria that relevant planning applications (including single dwelling houses in rural areas) must comply with. One of these criteria is the retention and enhancement of landscape connections such as trees and hedgerows.</p> <p>CDP Volume 2 Development Management Standards – Section 3.1.2 Standards for Single Dwellings in Rural Areas requires the following:</p> <p>Provisions must be made within the site for biodiversity in line with the standards set out in Table 3-3 which requires, depending on the house size and site size, a certain % of the site to be set aside for biodiversity.</p> <p>CDP Section 2.9.1 Roadside Boundaries in Rural Areas requires existing roadside hedgerows, trees and stone walls to be retained. However, this section notes that that the removal of some part of the roadside boundary will be necessary to facilitate the entrance and sightlines. Where the removal is permitted, it must be replaced within appropriate native hedging and trees.</p> <p>Surface water on roads</p> <p>Planning applications are required to include proposals to manage surface water within the sites boundaries, and condition(s) are attached to planning permissions requiring this.</p>
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<p>Roads - vulnerable road users such as cyclists, motorcyclists, walkers and joggers can have a tricky and dangerous time, particularly on Local and Regional roads for the following reasons.</p> <p>a) Mud and debris on roads (see attached photos), dragged from fields and the entrance to construction and quarry sites makes for hazardous conditions, being very slippery when wet, or you getting covered in muddy spray or going through a dust cloud when dry. This is a common occurrence that is getting more common, due to a lack of care for other road users by offenders and a complete lack of enforcement by the Local Authority under Section 13 of the Roads Act 1993.</p> <p>b) Another issue, on mainly Local and Regional roads are untrimmed ditches, leading to the narrowing of roads and particularly dangerous for walkers and joggers as they have nowhere to go in an emergency situation (no verge).</p> <p>c) Potholes and broken road edges are another common danger on roads, in particular to vulnerable road users, especially when potholes can't be seen as they may be under water. It takes much less</p>	<p>There is a very strong focus on the use of nature-based solutions to manage surface water rather than the traditional 'grey' solutions. The County Development Plan requirements include:</p> <p>CDP Volume 1 Written Statement - Section 9.11.11 Surface Water Management</p> <p>CDP Objective SWM01 – relates to the application of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and prioritisation of nature-based solutions.</p> <p>CDP Objective SWM07 - discourage the use of hard non-porous surfacing and pavements within the boundaries of rural housing sites.</p> <p>CDP Volume 2 Development Management Manual:</p> <p>CDP Section 3.1.2 Standards for Single Dwellings in Rural Areas – the site must be capable of accommodating proposals to manage surface water drainage within its boundaries, and without significant discharges affecting public road drainage.</p> <p>CDP Section 6.2.6 Siting and Design of Access/Egress Points – includes a list of criteria that must be met included surface water management arrangement – D: It shall be demonstrated, using the principles of Sustainable Drainage Systems, that the proposed new/intensified access/egress point would not result in surface water being brought onto the public road and that existing roadside drainage would not be adversely affected.</p> <p>CDP Section 8.2.1 Surface Water Management – this section outlines that the Planning Authority will require the use of</p>
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	<p>time and materials to fill a small pothole instead of waiting until it has grown, so a shovel of filling is no good any more, you now need a wheelbarrow full of filling. We also need a lot less loose chippings and other debris on roads and at junctions due to reduced road grip that they give, in particular for two wheelers.</p> <p>d) Speed and erratic driver behaviour is a very serious issue on the roads and introducing lower speed limits will have little effect, as the main offenders will ignore them anyway, and engagement with the relevant stakeholders for a lot more enforcement of traffic laws on all roads, at all times of the day or night, is very urgently required.</p> <p>We are supposedly trying to encourage more cycling and walking on the roads to help combat climate change, but until we have safe roads and roadsides, and a major change in driving behaviour by a large percentage of drivers, few people will be encouraged to allow themselves to walk or cycle on the roads or allow their children to walk or cycle to school as things currently stand.</p>	<p>Sustainable Drainage Systems and prioritise the use of nature-based solutions.</p> <p>In relation to flooding and water lying or flowing on to roads – Under Section 76 of the Roads Act it is an offence to allow water to flow onto roads from adjacent land. There is provision under this Act for the Local Authority to pursue cases where we are aware of an offence being caused.</p> <p>Extract from Section 76 of the Act below</p> <p>(5) The owner or occupier of any land adjacent to a public road shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) water is not prevented, obstructed or impeded from draining into, onto, under, through or to his land from a public road, (b) water, soil or other material is prevented from flowing or falling onto a public road from his land. <p>(6) A road authority may serve a notice in writing on the owner or occupier of any land adjacent to a public road requiring him to carry out specified works or take specified measures—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to ensure that water is not prevented, obstructed or impeded from draining into, onto, under, through or to his land from a public road, (b) to prevent water, soil or other material from flowing or falling onto a public road from his land
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	<p>It may be a National rather than a local issue to sort out, but all vehicles need speed limiters fitting and there should also be a limit on the size (width) of vehicles using local roads in particular, so if you are walking or cycling in particular, you don't have to stop or maybe turn back because you have nowhere to go when you meet a large truck or tractor coming in the opposite direction.</p>	<p>The following actions in the CAP address many of these observations: NEGI 4, NEGI 22, NEGI 23 Action BET 12 which references natural drainage. Action BET 8, 9 & BET 10 refers to Active Travel Initiatives.</p>
	<p>4. Endorses rewilding with native species in areas controlled by the council</p>	<p>4. A dedicated biodiversity officer position will be in place in 2024(See GL3). The following actions in the CAP address these observations: NEGI 7, NEGI 13, NEGI 16, NEGI 26.</p>
	<p>5. Lists a number of questions that individuals can ask themselves regarding Climate - might be useful for public campaigns though some would be outside the scope of the CAP.</p>	<p>5.This is addressed through action GL 9 through education and awareness.</p>
<p>WXF-C170-6</p>	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u> No modification is proposed to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on the basis of this submission, for the reasons set out above.</p>	

Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-7 Community Gardens Ireland	Community Gardens Ireland are a voluntary, independent, inclusive group that works with all agencies and groups that promote environmental awareness and support community gardening and food growing in all parts of the island of Ireland. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from Community Gardens Ireland and acknowledges the content and observations received.	
WXF-C170-7 Community Gardens Ireland	<p>1.Allotments and Community gardens</p> <p>Additional supports for community gardens and allotments to increase their number in the county.</p> <p>Allotments and Community</p> <p>Use Enniscorthy Allotments as a model for the county.</p> <p>Property review to identify locations for allotments and community gardens.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement on the desirability of community growing.</p> <p>Recognise and celebrate National Allotments and Community Gardens Week.</p>	<p>1.Amend Action D5 (now CRT 5) to include communities and community allotments to support local food/vegetable production and modify KPIs to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage increase in gardens/allotments and consider inclusion of allotments in Environmental Awards • Complete a community garden/allotment survey <p>The following actions in the CAP address this submission</p> <p>NEGI 7, NEGI 13, NEGI 16, NEGI 26.</p> <p>CRT5 – Allotments and Community gardens can enter the Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition under 3 existing categories in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Community Environment Initiative • Best Community Project that Tackles and Reduces the Impacts of Climate Change • Best Community Project to Improve Accessibility in Gardens/Parks. <p>Please note Enniscorthy Community Allotments won the Best Overall Entry in 2022 and 1st prize in the category Best Community Environment Initiative in 2023.</p>

	2. Open and support a seed library similar to Wicklow and Cork.	2.SRM6 Build on existing "Library of Things" collections to support and enable circular living in our communities e.g., Pilot Seed Library in Wexford Libraries.
WXF-C170-7 Community Gardens Ireland	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>Amend Action D5 (now CRT 5) to include communities and community allotments to support local food/vegetable production and add the following additional KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage Increase in number of gardens/allotments • Complete a community garden/allotment survey • Number of entries in Keep Wexford Beautiful under the following categories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Community Environment Initiative • Best Community Project that tackles and reduces the impacts of Climate Change • Best Community Project to Improve Accessibility in Gardens/Parks 	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council	<p>Courtown Community Council is a voluntary organisation, committed to delivering a dedicated service for the continuous improvement of the environment and heritage, to benefit the whole community. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from the Courtown Community Council and acknowledges the content and observations received.</p>	
WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council	<p>1.Built Environment and Transport (BET)</p> <p>B1, B2, B4, B7, B8, B9, B10, B11, B12, B14, B18, B19, B23,</p> <p>having due regard to environmental sensitivities, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, mature trees,</p>	<p>1.Environmental considerations have been appropriately integrated into each of the Built Environment and Transport related climate actions. It should be noted the listed 'environmental sensitivities' in the Plan are non-exhaustive in nature. Climate action defined in the plan supports biodiversity protection and enhancement, as appropriate; with the term 'biodiversity' extensively referring to all aspects of the receiving</p>

	<p>European and NHA sites, local air quality and cultural heritage sensitivities.</p> <p>C5,C6,C12,C16 (NEGI)</p> <p>To identify, protect and manage green infrastructure in future local area plans having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as, mature trees, sensitive dune systems, national monuments, protected structures, European and NHA sites, biodiversity, and amenity value.</p>	<p>biodiversity environment, including flora, fauna, mature trees, important habitats and NHA sites. Further to this, several Environmental Governance Principles (EGPs) defined in the plan will underpin defined climate action. These EGPs support extensive biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p>
<p>WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council</p>	<p>2.Natural Environment and Green infrastructure (NEGI)</p> <p>C1</p> <p>Reference the National Climate Change Management Strategy https://www.gov.ie/en/pressrelease/1ac6a-report-on-national-coastal-change-management-strategy-sets-out-long-termblueprint-to-deal-with-future-coastal-change/#</p> <p>C2, C3, C10</p> <p>having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and sustainable Drainage Systems and environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment,</p>	<p>2.The inter-relationship between the Plan and the National Climate Change Management Strategy should be addressed in the environmental reports. The relationship of the Plan with the National Climate Change Management Strategy is defined in Appendix 1- <i>Relationship of the plan with other relevant plans and programmes, as appropriate</i> and Section 7.3- <i>Potential cumulative effect of the Draft LACAP</i> of the SEA and is defined in Section 3.4- <i>In-combination effects with other plans and programmes</i> and Appendix 2 – <i>Relationship with other plans and programmes, as appropriate</i> of NIR.</p> <p>For C1 See gov.ie - Coastal Change Management Strategy Report (www.gov.ie).</p>

	sensitive dune systems, European and NHA sites.	
WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council	3.C9 Reference the National Climate Change Management Strategy and include a recommendation for a 500m Buffer zone around European and NHA sites.	3.The Plan does not provide a framework for land use in the local authority functional area. This action only supports objectives of the County Development Plan. See response in Item 1 of this submission.
WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council	4.C13 Notably areas vulnerable to coastal erosion.	4. NEGI13 (C13) refers to all Wexford County Council owned land for restoration.
WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council	5. Liaise & collaborate with Teagasc to influence and advocate towards more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices including the Teagasc signpost programme and the Teagasc Neighbour Wood Scheme.	5. Amend NEGI 19 (C19) to the following. Liaise & collaborate with Teagasc and other advisors to influence and advocate towards more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices including signpost programmes and Forestry Schemes.
WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council	6. C21 Agriculture and Forestry	6. Amend NEGI 21 (C21) to the following: Implement a collaboration project with a series of "champion farmer" events around the county to showcase what agriculture and forestry is doing for climate change, water quality and biodiversity.
WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council	7. C22 Improving flood resistance and coastal erosion by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG	7.The addition of "Coastal" Erosion into this action is unsuitable due to the overall context of this action which is management of soil structure.

	sequestration associated with land use functions having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as mature trees, European and NHA sites, biodiversity and amenity value.	
WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council	8. Endorse achieving 15min model, improve interconnectivity, improve public transport.	8. Objective TS02 of the CDP Chapter 8 – Transportation Strategy - aims to minimise the generation of GHG emissions by the transport sector using the avoid-shift-improve principal and by effectively integrating land use and transport planning, including the implementation of the 10-minute town concept.
WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council	9. Install recycle bins at beach car parks to reduce marine litter.	<p>9. Action SRM 1 deals with the circular economy.</p> <p>Recycling Bins for Bottles & Cans are available at all Blue-flag Beaches & Marinas (approx. 10).</p> <p>Newspaper recycling is available at some.</p> <p>For Green Coast Beaches Wexford County Council promotes a Leave No Trace Policy (See Action NEGI 25) where visitors are encouraged to take waste home.</p> <p>The new Deposit Return Scheme (Re-turn) will commence in February, 2024 to deal with plastic drinks bottles and drinks cans.</p> <p>It is expected to help with Litter Pollution problems in the longer term.</p>
WXF-C170-8 Courtown	12 Collaborate with Coastwatch to promote citizen science.	12. Action GL12 amended to include citizen science.

Community Council		
	13. Establish Marine Heritage Areas.	13. Marine Heritage Areas are a matter for National policy and outside the scope of the CAP but the plan does address the protection of existing areas of natural heritage.
WXF-C170-8 Courtown Community Council	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>The relationship of the Plan with the National Climate Change Management Strategy is defined in Appendix 1 and Section 7.3 of the SEA and is defined in Section 3.4 and Appendix 2 of NIR.</p> <p>Amend NEGI 19 (C19) and NEGI21 (C21) as per items 5 & 6 above</p> <p>Amend GL12 to include Citizen Science.</p>	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-9 Knockingall Organisation Community Centre CLG Piercestown	1. As a community centre we use a lot of Electricity on the Light Heat & power we have to have available to our centre users. We have both outside and inside lighting - fully fitted Kitchen , HSE Certified .Cooker, Dishwasher, Water Boilers, Fridge Freezer. Utility room Dishwasher, Dryer and Water softener.	<p>1. This submission was incomplete, but the following actions address community energy use, efficiency & upgrades.</p> <p>CRT1 Encourage community groups to pursue climate action projects at local level through the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) and support & facilitate them in accessing funding through various channels/initiatives.</p> <p>CRT2 Organise and host themed events based on areas such as energy saving and energy use reduction, renewable energy, biodiversity, climate literacy, sustainable lifestyles, environmental awareness, climate action health and wellbeing projects and sustainable development goals, to actively and equitably participate in climate action.</p>

		<p>CRT3 Support & encourage sustainable energy communities to engage in climate action at local level through the provision of bridge funding for Energy Master Plans under the memorandum of understanding through the SEAI SEC Programme.</p> <p>The group was contacted regarding this incomplete submission and they intended it as a request for information on the Community Climate Action Programme, not as a submission.</p>
<p>WXF-C170-9 Knockingall Organisation Community Centre CLG</p>	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>No modification is proposed to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on the basis of this submission for the reasons set out above.</p>	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
<p>WXF-C170-10 Individual Ambrose Dowling</p>	<p>A detailed submission regarding public spaces, local access and transport from Mr. Dowling. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from the Mr Dowling and acknowledges the content and observations received.</p>	
<p>WXF-C170-10 Individual Ambrose Dowling</p>	<p>1.Suitable neighbourhoods are places where people want to live. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents and are sensitive to their environment and contribute to a high quality of life. There are lots of estates like these around the towns and villages of county Wexford. There are many small cull de sacs with a green area which is what attracted</p>	<p>1.The development of compact and permeable neighbourhoods will facilitate and encourage safe, active travel (walking and cycling). This will reduce car-dependent journeys and associated fossil fuel emissions and is a sustainable policy approach from a climate mitigation perspective.</p> <p>It is an objective of the CDP (Volume 1 – Chapter Transportation Strategy) as set out in Objective TS26 to protect existing and provide new safe linkages in existing developments and street patterns where such linkages improve</p>

	<p>the homeowners to buy there. These are safe areas for children to play in. Many such residents have developed these areas into environmentally friendly places, which are used by many in the locality. This plan seeks to change these areas, destroying these small communities and areas by opening them up with walkways and cycleways under the guise of climate action. This is in direct contrast to other county councils, who are now closing of these lanes as they have attracted antisocial behaviour. Why is the council not learning from others' experience?</p>	<p>permeability by walking and cycling. The delivery of retrospective links should, where possible, be made in conjunction with the provision of additional amenity space to make the links open and attractive.</p> <p>Section 14.5.6 (Chapter 14 Recreation and Open Space Strategy) outlines that open space is an excellent way of integrating new and older developments by adding new open space to an existing open space. The Council will encourage new developments to merge with existing development where possible. This will be mutually beneficial providing spaces which are large enough to be usable while increasing permeability and integrating communities. This approach could facilitate the provision of an attractive, safe pedestrian linkage to the adjoining new development through increasing permeability and making walking and cycling easier and <u>can be achieved through successful community consultation</u>. This is supported by Objective ROS14, which reads as follows:</p> <p>“To facilitate, through community consultation and involvement, the merging and linking of existing open spaces with new open spaces as a mechanism for providing larger more useful public open spaces, improving permeability and promoting social cohesion”.</p> <p>Active travel improvements are intended to enhance safety measures for vulnerable road users. There are no cul de sacs that we are aware of that will be opened up ‘under the guise of climate action’. If there are any works proposed in the future for cul-de-sacs and quiet green areas these will be at the most permeability measures so pedestrians will not have to walk</p>
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		<p>along the road network to reach a destination that may be much closer by a shorter route across a green or through a boundary wall into another estate. Our residential and retail areas are typically laid out based on car movements and little thought was previously given to short cuts offering permeability. A good example is the retail park at Woodies etc where many pedestrians can be regularly seen climbing fences and walls to access the shops inside the retail park. The alternative is a much longer walk following the road way whereas if a simple gap in the boundary wall had been provided it would provide a direct link for those opting to walk or cycle. Going forward well thought out permeability measures will be sought in future developments.</p> <p>This plan will also look at potential locations for future public transport corridors and explore locations for mobility hubs</p>
<p>WXF-C170-10 Individual Ambrose Dowling</p>	<p>2. This plan does not guarantee consultation with residents of these affected areas. Cars and cyclists have coexisted safely, in these areas, for generations. In towns, bringing in policies that create traffic jams is more harmful to the environment.</p>	<p>2.The Plan in its current form supports the carrying out of climate action related development in a manner that accords with relevant planning and environmental protection criteria, including transport planning criteria.</p> <p>See Action BET6 (B6) which refers to the Wexford Town Local Transport Plan. This plan will provide details of same.</p> <p>Typically, any active travel proposals are subject to a consultation process under Part 8 of the Planning Act or Section 38 of the Roads Act. Smaller more local changes are typically notified to residents by means of leaflet drops.</p>

<p>WXF-C170-10 Individual Ambrose Dowling</p>	<p>3. This plan lacks detail for future traffic management in the Wexford area. A good plan would allow people to reach their destination in a realistic environmentally friendly way by car, bike or bus. An option would be to investigate the provision of a transport hub at Ballyellin Service area on the N11, which would benefit all the southeast coast and beyond. This has all the infrastructure required. This hub could have local, regional, and regular bus services.</p>	<p>3. See Action BET6 (B6) which refers to the Wexford Town Local Transport Plan. This plan will provide details of same.</p> <p>The selection and addition of service areas on National routes is outside the remit of this Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Traffic management – An Area Based Transport Assessment is currently underway for Wexford Town to plan for traffic, public transport and active travel in the future.</p> <p>The hierarchy of this plan looks at planning for pedestrians as the main priority, followed by cyclists, public transport and lastly the private car. This plan will aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the Transport targets of the Climate Action Plan 2030 by reducing reliance on private vehicles • To improve access within Wexford Town via sustainable transport modes to services, recreational facilities, and jobs • To provide an integrated, reliable and sustainable transport network aligned with existing and future national, regional and local transport programmes and initiatives to support the shift to more sustainable transport • To provide a safer transport network for all users • To improve air quality and landscape by reducing levels of through-traffic within the Town Centre and environs.
<p>WXF-C170-10 Individual Ambrose Dowling</p>	<p>4.a) The consultations process- more convenient time for people.</p>	<p>4. a) Pre-consultation events were held in June throughout the day and the evening sessions were the most poorly attended, hence we decided to hold the draft consultation sessions</p>

	<p>b) The plan consists of more than one manual. This is not obvious for anyone looking for the total plan.</p> <p>c) No Index for Abbreviations.</p>	<p>during the day. The draft Climate Action Plan was available on the online portal from 10th October to 21st November.</p> <p>b) Details of all documentation and reports were displayed on the online portal and could be accessed through the WCC website.</p> <p><u>Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 Public Consultation Wexford County Council Online Consultation Portal (wexfordcoco.ie)</u></p> <p>c). Acronyms were included on page 155 of Draft Climate Action Plan.</p>
WXF-C170-10 Individual Ambrose Dowling	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>No modification is proposed to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on the basis of this submission for the reasons set out above.</p>	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-11 Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage	<p>The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage have provided a detailed submission in relation to the Built and Archaeological Heritage as detailed below. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and acknowledges the content and observations received.</p>	
WXF-C170-11 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	<p>1.The Department draws your attention to the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019) prepared as part of the National Adaptation Framework. The Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan (CCSAP) identifies the priority impacts for the built</p>	<p>1. The National Climate Action Plan (2023) and Sectoral Adaptation Plans have been considered in the SEA Process. The relationship of the Plan with Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019) prepared as part of the National Adaptation Framework has been referenced</p>

	and archaeological heritage based on current climate change projections.	in Appendix 1 and Section 7 of the Draft SEA ER and Section 3.4 and Appendix 2 of NIR.
WXF-C170-11 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)	2. Identifying the built and archaeological heritage assets in the local authority area including, but not restricted to, structures and sites subject to statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, or the Planning and Development Acts	2. The SEA scoping report and SEA Environmental Report identify the built and archaeological heritage assets in the LA including structures and sites subject to statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, and the Planning and Development Act (as amended). Exhaustive detail on built and archaeological heritage is held on record by the local authority and provided in the Country Development Plan already.
WXF-C170-11 DHLGH	3. Including objectives to carry out climate change risk assessments, including condition assessments, for the historic structures and sites in its area.	3. Action BET15 is amended to include risk assessment. Several climate resilience related actions have been defined in the plan that may benefit architectural and archaeological heritage protection. Wexford County Council includes climate change risk assessment of historic sites and structures within its remit.
WXF-C170-11 DHLGH	4. Including objectives to develop disaster-risk reduction policies addressing direct and indirect risks to the built and archaeological heritage in its area	4. The Plan defines actions that will serve to minimize and manage climate related disaster risk (e.g., flood risk) and improve the climate resilience of architectural and archaeological heritage
WXF-C170-11 DHLGH	5. Including objectives to develop resilience and adaptation strategies for the built and archaeological heritage in its area.	5. The Plan defines actions that will improve the climate resilience of architectural and archaeological heritage
WXF-C170-11 DHLGH	6. Developing the skills capacity within the local authority to address	6. Action GL3 deals with this comment. There is a dedicated Heritage Officer and Coastal Engineer employed by Wexford

	adaptation/mitigation/emergency management issues affecting heritage assets in order to avoid inadvertent loss or damage in the course of climate change adaptation or mitigation works	County Council and a Biodiversity officer position will be in place in 2024. Wexford County Council engages expert consultants for specific projects in relation to heritage and archaeology as required.
WXF-C170-11 DHLGH	7. The Department will shortly be publishing a new guidance document Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings. This guidance will assist retrofitting installers and specifiers in how best to choose and apply energy efficiency measures to the historic building stock. The guidance is also intended to assist building owners and occupants in making decisions about upgrading their buildings, many of which are of architectural heritage significance. It is recommended that all proposed retrofitting projects undertaken or supported by the local authority to buildings of traditional construction should follow the principles and practice set out in that guidance	7. The following actions, BET13 and DZBET16 address this element of the submission. The SEA Environmental Report has defined mitigation measures within the plan to ensure that any retrofitting of buildings including protected structures is carried out in a manner that doesn't impinge on built heritage or protected structures.
	8. it is recommended that, where such officers are employed, the Architectural Conservation Officer, Heritage Officer and Archaeologist should be included on the local authority's Adaptation Steering Group	8. The Biodiversity Officer and Heritage Officer (both to be appointed) will be members of the Wexford County Council Climate Action Steering Group
	<u>CE Recommendation</u>	

	<p>In relation to Item No. 1 the NIR and SEA reports are updated.</p> <p>In relation to item 3, Action BET15 is amended to include – “Carry out Climate Risk Assessment of historic sites and structures”.</p>	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-12 Individual Submission	Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from this individual and acknowledges the content and observations received.	
WXF-C170-12 Individual Submission	<p>Geese Challenges – the submission focuses on a single issue of the loss of fodder to over wintering migratory birds (which are protected species) and the lack/misapplication of subsidies for that loss.</p>	<p>The question of subsidies is beyond the scope of the Climate Action Plan. This issue should be raised with the NPWS.</p> <p>There are a number of ways in which the plan supports agricultural sector and landowners in making environmentally sound decisions about land use.</p> <p>NEGI 19 Liaise & collaborate with Teagasc to influence and advocate towards more sustainable agricultural practices including the Teagasc Signpost Programme.</p> <p>NEGI 21 Implement a collaboration project with a series of "champion farmer" events around the county to showcase what agriculture is doing for climate change, water quality and biodiversity.</p> <p>NEGI 23 Provide expert advice on biodiversity and encourage native planting on farmland within County Wexford</p>
	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>No modification is proposed to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on the basis of this submission for the reasons set out above.</p>	

Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-13 Wexford Bus	Wexford Bus are a key supplier of public transport in Wexford. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from Wexford Bus and acknowledges the content and observations received.	
WXF-C170-13 Wexford Bus	<p>Wexford Bus are very cognisant of the key role our services play in the sustainability of the transport network in the county and region. We provide in excess of one million passenger journeys annually, travelling over 3 million vehicle kilometres on a fleet of 60 coach and bus heavy-duty vehicles. We have conducted a detailed academically led feasibility study of the electrification of the local Wexford town bus fleet, representing just 5% of our fleet, but intended to inform our overall fleet decarbonisation strategy. The main barriers were established to be the capital cost and availability of grid infrastructure to support electric fleet charging and the capital cost of vehicles. En-route charging is unsuitable for such fleets, they require significant Depot charging capacity. The environmental impact of the electrification of these existing services was calculated to remove 128tCO₂e of carbon emissions annually from Wexford town centre.</p> <p>Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI) have indicated their expectation that Local</p>	<p>This can be given further consideration as part of the preparation of the Wexford Town Local Transport Plan and the Wexford Town Local Area Plan.</p> <p>Wexford County Council would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on projects of this nature. It is noted that there is nothing precluding Wexford Bus from seeking planning permission to install depot charging grid infrastructure at their Operations Centre in Drinagh. While there is no objective in the County Development Plan (CDP) relating specifically to depot charging for public transport/bus, the following objective, which forms part of Chapter 2 Climate Action, would relate to it:</p> <p>(CDP) Objective CA17: to support decarbonisation in the transport sector by facilitating initiatives that promote the use of clean generated electricity biogas, hydrogen and other non-fossil fuels for private and public transportation and provide clean energy and lower carbon fuelling and electric vehicle charging stations and infrastructure at appropriate locations including consideration of electric, hydrogen, compressed natural gas (CNG)/biogas.</p> <p>There are some objectives in from (CDP) Volume 1 Written Statement – Chapter 8 Transportation Strategy that may be relevant:</p>

	<p>Authorities would identify targeted locations for fast charging infrastructure. We would like to propose that Wexford County Council advocate for and facilitate the prioritisation of Depot Charging grid infrastructure at our Operations Centre in Drinagh. The Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy addresses home, shared, destination, and en-route charging but not Depot infrastructure (Government of Ireland, 2023). While heavy duty vehicle fast charge hubs are proposed, these are unsuitable for the support of licenced scheduled services that operate set routes and timetables.</p> <p>We know from the experience of the pathfinder project that electrified the Athlone town fleet, that the project is capital intensive and requires significant high level stakeholder engagement on grid infrastructure, planning and funding. We would like to engage collaboratively with Wexford County Council to explore opportunities for the provision of Depot charging infrastructure to enable decarbonisation of public transport services in the County.</p>	<p>(CDP) Objective TS06- to support actions which will transition ports, freight and all transport modes towards a low carbon future, including by enhanced rail infrastructure and services.</p> <p>(CDP) Objective TS18 – to respond in a proactive and collaborative manner to ensure that County Wexford is ready for, and can fully benefit from, technological changes in transport including the provision of electric and other alternative fuels.</p> <p>(CDP) Objective TS34 – to support and facilitate the provision of infrastructure serving public transport including, but not limited to, new transport mode-interchanges, bus and rail stations, bus shelters, adequate bus parking, bus lanes, car parking facilities, taxi ranks and cycle parking and lanes. Such facilities will be supported, particularly in settlements on and in proximity to national routes, where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate universal access; • Promote the effectiveness and viability of services; • Promote the convenience and attractiveness of public transport for all sections of the community; • Allow for efficient integration between different transport modes • Connect <p>The following actions in the CAP address these observations: BET 6, BET 7, BET 16, BET 24.</p>
	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p>	

	No modification is proposed to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on the basis of this submission for the reasons set out above.	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-14 Individual Submission	Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from this individual and acknowledges the content and observations received.	
	This submission relates to migratory birds and fodder loss.	<p>The question of subsidies is beyond the scope of the climate action plan. This issue should be raised with the NPWS.</p> <p>There are a number of ways in which the plan supports agricultural sector and landowners in making environmentally sound decisions about land use.</p> <p>NEGI 19 Liaise & collaborate with Teagasc to influence and advocate towards more sustainable agricultural practices including the Teagasc Signpost Programme.</p> <p>NEGI 21 Implement a collaboration project with a series of "champion farmer" events around the county to showcase what agriculture is doing for climate change, water quality and biodiversity.</p> <p>NEGI 23 Provide expert advice on biodiversity and encourage native planting on farmland within County Wexford.</p>
WXF-C170-14 Individual Submission	CE Recommendation	
	No modification is proposed to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on the basis of this submission for the reasons set out above.	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation

WXF-C170-15 Wexford Public Participation Network	Wexford Public Participation Network is a network of not-for-profit volunteer led groups spread across County Wexford. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from Wexford Public Participation Network and acknowledges the content and observations received.	
WXF-C170-15 Wexford Public Participation Network	1. The PPN have requested to be included in actions that relate to DECA Objectives 1.3, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5 (as per Appendix A).	1.The PPN have been listed as partners for actions related to awareness raising and engagement with stakeholders, as they play a key role in communication and outreach. The PPN have been added as partners to the following actions (PPN to be added as partner in CAP) GL 6, GL 9, GL 12, BET 6, SRM 1, SRM 3, SRM 4, NEGI 18, NEGI 21, NEGI 25, CRT 1, CRT 2, CRT 3, CRT 5, DZGL 1, DZNEGI 3, DZSRM 2.
WXF-C170-15 Wexford Public Participation Network	2.Key Objective No 1.3 "Identify what matters to communities in relation to climate action and climate resilience – now and in the future". Is this included?	2.This DECA goal objective is now referenced in Table 4.1 for the following actions: BET 29, BET 31, CRT1, CRT5. Strategic goal 6 and its key objectives all relate to just transition.
WXF-C170-15 Wexford Public Participation Network	3.Key Objective No 4.6, " <i>Pilot replicable demonstration and pathfinder projects and evaluate same</i> ". <i>Is this included?</i>	3. Appendix A in Section 4.6 reads: "Pilot replicable demonstration- projects and replicate same". Pathfinder is not specifically mentioned in the DECA goals, but we have actions related to 4.6. BET 11, BET 13, BET 16
WXF-C170-15 Wexford Public Participation Network	4.DECA SG No 6 (<i>Just Transition - 4 Key Objectives</i>) is very overlooked in the draft and should be addressed.	4.An additional paragraph on Just Transition has been added to section 4.3 on Communities, Resilience and transition.

		<p>An Action specific to Just transition for the county of Wexford has been incorporated into Table 4.1 Action CRT 15.</p>
<p>WXF-C170-15 Wexford Public Participation Network</p>	<p>5.While there is a stated target reduction of 51% for the whole county the pathway to achieve that is not laid out.</p> <p>On page 41 it outlines its responsibility for non-Council emissions as follows: Advocating, co-ordinating and facilitating climate action with communities and the various sectors within our County, to aid them in reaching their own emissions reduction targets.</p> <p>This is very weak, there should be sectoral reduction targets across the County as whole in order to reach the overall reduction of 51%.</p> <p>For example, the national reduction target for Transport is 50%, but there is no mention of this target in the document</p>	<p>5.The county council does not have a statutory role in mandating sectoral targets. Wexford County Council has full accountability and obligations to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030, and can influence, co-ordinate, facilitate and advocate for all other sectors to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030.</p> <p>A Tier 3 Baseline Emission Inventory was completed for the Enniscorthy DZ Register of Opportunities as per the guidelines. A Tier 3 is the bottom-up spatial-led approach for data analysis, to look at a local level of GHG emissions across various sectors and hence allows for more accurate predictions of future Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction achievements.</p> <p>A Tier 2 Baseline Emission Inventory was completed for the county. A Tier 2 is the bottom-up approach for data analysis, which takes national datasets and local-scale datasets together to look at county.</p> <p>Sectoral Adaptation plans were listed in the Draft CAP under section 1.4.2. National sectoral targets have now been included in this section in Table 1.1. It should be noted that these are national sectoral targets and Wexford's remit it to achieve 51% reduction, overall, within the organisation and through advocacy and facilitation, 51% reduction across the county.</p>

		<p>The following actions are examples of where Wexford County Council can advocate and influence.</p> <p>BET 10, BET 17, BET 16, NEGI 23, NEGI 26, CRT 1.</p>
<p>WXF-C170-15 Wexford Public Participation Network</p>	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>An additional paragraph on Just Transition has been added to section 4.3 on Communities, Resilience and transition. An Action specific to Just transition for the county of Wexford has been incorporated into Table 4.1 Action CRT 15.</p> <p>The PPN have been added as partners to the following actions:</p> <p>GL 6, GL 9, GL 12, BET 6, SRM 1, SRM 3, SRM 4, NEGI 18, NEGI 21, NEGI 25, CRT 1, CRT 2, CRT 3, CRT 5, DZGL 1, DZNEGI 3, DZSRM 2,</p> <p>DECA goal objective 1.3 and 4.6 is now referenced in Table 4.1 for the following actions:</p> <p>BET 11, BET 13, BET 16, BET 29, BET 31, CRT1, CRT5.</p> <p>The National Sectoral Targets have been listed and added to Section 1.4.2, Table 1.1</p>	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
<p>WXF-C170-16 Not Here Not Anywhere</p>	<p>Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from Not Here Not Anywhere and acknowledges the content with observations made under three specific headings.</p>	
<p>WXF-C170-16 Not Here Not Anywhere</p>	<p>1.Fossil Fuel and Fossil Fuel infrastructure</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan should ensure a rapid phasing out of all fossil fuels including gas.</p>	<p>1.The County Development Plan (CDP) addresses Climate Action and a reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions through the following sections</p> <p>Chapter 2 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out a number of objectives of the Council to reduce</p>

	<p>The Climate Action Plan should include a planned phasing out of existing connections to the gas grid.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan should rule out any new fossil fuel infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>greenhouse gas emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors.</p> <p>Section 10.6 also includes objectives to improve air quality by reducing emissions, ensuring the efficient use of land and infrastructure and promoting a modal change from private car use to other types of travel as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Energy Strategy contained in Volume 10 of the County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out how <i>“the Council is committed to achieving national renewable energy targets in order to transition to a low carbon economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and importation of fossil fuels and ensure a secure energy supply to meet the future requirement of a growing population.”</i> The Strategy includes a target to meet 100% of its electricity consumption from renewable energy sources by 2027 which will assist in achieving the national renewable energy target, with County Wexford providing well in excess of its population share.</p>
<p>WXF-C170-16 Not Here Not Anywhere</p>	<p>2. Energy- A better Way Forward</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan should include actions which incentivise community energy projects - community based projects, organizations and social enterprises involved in the energy sector, owned and operated by local people and local authorities in the community.</p>	<p>2. Section 1.1 of the Energy Strategy (page 3) states:</p> <p>Overall, the energy expectation for Wexford up to 2027 is as follows:</p> <p>A reduction in demand for non-renewable energy sources, such as coal, oil and gas, and an increased demand for electricity from all sectors, leading to cleaner, more sustainable energy usage across the county.</p>

	<p>The Climate Action Plan should prioritize safeguarding against Energy Poverty.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan should contain measures to ensure that energy demand is managed responsibly and sustainably, with energy seen as a public good whereby essential services are prioritized. This should involve rapid retrofitting and the decarbonisation and increase of accessibility of public transport.</p> <p>When introducing community energy projects or new energy infrastructure, decision processes should be designed in a participatory way, with input from residents and stakeholder group representatives.</p> <p>Special outreach efforts must be made to include disadvantaged or marginalized groups in participatory processes.</p> <p>Keep a detailed record of the participation of marginalized groups and of best practices that serve to increase this participation.</p> <p>Any renewable energy infrastructure must comply with best practice public participation.</p>	<p>A significant increase in the demand for electricity is predicted resulting in a decrease in demand for fossil fuels. A major factor in this will be the Transport sector, as electric cars are developed and become more widespread, the oil usage contributed by the sector is projected to decrease.</p> <p>A significant reduction in the use of coal and peat for home heating is anticipated due to advances in home heating technology, improvements in home insulation and new laws restricting the burning of fossil fuels for home heating due to environmental and climate change obligations.</p> <p>The use of natural gas is predicted to remain steady for Wexford and New Ross, with Great Island CCGT providing security of supply up to 2030.</p> <p>Section 9.13 of the Written Statement sets out objectives for the Gas Network and states that “currently the County is connected to the national gas network at Great Island with parts of Wexford Town connected to the system. Expansion to the remaining three main towns would be considered positively by the Council particularly when serving industrial uses with high energy demands.”</p> <p>The following objectives for the Gas Network are included in the Plan:</p> <p>(CDP) GN01 - To support the extension of the gas network throughout County Wexford, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>(CDP) GN02 - To promote renewable gas leading to carbon emission reduction in agriculture, industry, heating and transport</p>
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		<p>as well as sustainable local employment opportunities and support the transition of the gas network to a “carbon neutral” gas network by 2050.</p> <p>The Plan is consistent with higher tier plans including the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region which identifies delivery of natural gas to Gorey Town as a key infrastructural requirement and includes an objective (RPO96) for the development and upgrading of the electricity and gas network to integrate renewable energy sources.</p> <p>The CDP will be reviewed, and varied if necessary, following publication of relevant Section 28 Guidelines, the revised National Planning Framework (NPF) and/or Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) where the Plan is no longer consistent with these higher tier plans.</p> <p>Planning applications for infrastructure developments (including source materials) will be assessed on their merits in accordance with the objectives of the CDP. The plan supports energy efficiency and renewable energy sources within the county and Decarbonisation Zone. The following actions in the CAP address these observations:</p> <p>BET 1, BET 4, BET 5, BET 19, BET 20, BET 32, CRT 1, CRT 3, DZBET 15.</p> <p>An additional paragraph on Just Transition has been added to section 4.3 on Communities, Resilience and transition. An Action specific to Just transition for the county of Wexford has been incorporated into Table 4.1 Action CRT 15.</p>
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<p>WXF-C170-16 Not Here Not Anywhere</p>	<p>3.Data Centres</p> <p>Setting of an overall cap on the level of data centre energy demand that can be accommodated by the electricity grid in the county. Specify that data centres are required to provide flexibility to the grid at times of day and times of year when wind and solar energy on the grid is low relative to demand - and not allowing data centers to use fossil fuel generation as the means of providing this flexibility (they can use other means e.g. energy storage, time-shifting of data processing services). Specify that new data centres are required to be powered entirely by one of the following, and existing centres should be required to transition rapidly to: On site direct renewable power source generation combined with energy storage.</p> <p>Off-site renewable power source and energy storage with dedicated grid connection (avoiding Renewable Energy Certificates).</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan should ban fracked gas in its energy mix.</p> <p>Wexford County Council should pass a motion calling on the Irish Government to join the bloc of nation-states seeking to</p>	<p>3.Data Centres</p> <p>Any applications for Data Centres will be assessed on its merits in accordance with the objectives of the County Development Plan and subject to normal planning and environmental criteria. Section 6.3 of the Energy Strategy sets out objectives for District Heating and Objective ES22 states that it is the objective of the Council "to support and facilitate the installation of district heating technologies in new developments, including multi-unit apartment developments, commercial and industrial developments. Where district heating is proposed, the associated infrastructure, networks and services for such systems shall be identified at planning stage and the long-term management and maintenance arrangements shall be to the satisfaction of the Council."</p> <p>All sources of waste heat will be considered as part of the delivery and operation of a district heat system subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>The banning of specific fuel/energy sources is outside the scope of the CAP.</p> <p>We note that the treaty seeks to recruit NGO's, Governments, Business Organisations, indigenous populations and academia to sign up to this global initiative. The CAP's focus is on relevant</p>
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	negotiate the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty	climate obligations and is part of EU wide requirements as well as the International Climate Obligations.
WXF-C170-16 Not Here, Not Anywhere	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>An additional paragraph on Just Transition has been added to section 4.3 on Communities, Resilience, and transition.</p> <p>An Action specific to Just transition for the county of Wexford has been incorporated into Table 4.1 Action CRT 15.</p>	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-17 Uisce Éireann	Uisce Éireann (UE) is the national water and wastewater utility of Ireland. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from Uisce Éireann and acknowledges the content with observations made under three specific headings.	
	<p>1.Uisce Éireann identify and welcome a number of actions within Wexford County Council CAP.</p> <p>2.We would welcome in particular, consideration of the following guidance:</p> <p>Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas – Best Practice Interim Guidance Document & other relevant NBS documents.</p>	<p>1.The following actions are welcomed by Uisce Éireann: NEGI 5, BET 2, BET 8, BET 21, NEGI 4, NEGI 6, CRT 14, NEGI 12, NEGI 18, DZBET 12.</p> <p>2.Content modification for Chapter 4 under Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure – To consider recent and future SUDS documents.</p>
WXF-C170-17 Uisce Éireann	UE highlighted their role in circular economy, and are eager to collaborate with	UE have been added as a partner to the following actions

	others in leveraging circularity opportunities to support the development of a sustainable bioeconomy model.	NEGI 19, NEGI 20, NEGI 21.
WXF-C170-17 Uisce Éireann	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>Modification to Chapter 4 under Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure – The Climate Actions will consider all recent and future SUDS documents and reports, when implementing NDS solutions.</p> <p>Uisce Éireann are added as a partner to the following actions: NEGI 19, NEGI 20, NEGI 21.</p>	
Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-18 Wexford Town Sustainable Energy Community (WTSEC)	Wexford Town Sustainable Energy Community is one of many SECs in County Wexford. They are a local group working together to meet their energy goals as a collective. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from Wexford Town Sustainable Energy Community and acknowledges the content with observations made under the below headings.	
WXF-C170-18 Wexford Town Sustainable Energy Community (WTSEC)	<p>Point 1,2 and 3 are summarised below.</p> <p>Whereas the document is very prescriptive it is lacking in objective targets for the whole County.</p> <p>The Council has influence and control on its emissions and doesn't need a public consultation to get on with its own obligations. We commend the Council here for committing to and progressing with the 51% reduction target and look forward to hearing about your continued success. We urge the Council to speed up the Council</p>	<p>The county council does not have a statutory role in mandating sectoral targets. The role of Wexford County Council is to influence, and advocate.</p> <p>The national Sectoral Targets have been listed and added to Section 4.2.</p> <p>The following actions refer to the energy efficiency upgrade of social housing and the aim is to maximise the delivery of the programme:</p>

	<p>owned house retrofit programme and go above and beyond your present targets, and would like to see that reflected in the LACAP.</p> <p>The purpose of the public consultation is to get all citizens and stakeholders involved in the process for the whole county, hence we need to see Pathways with targets for all sectors in the whole County.</p> <p>Each Sector must be considered separately. The National CAP specifies a 7% annual emissions reduction target. Such annual targets are needed in this plan, e.g. Transport has a national reduction target of 50%, the plan needs to consider all Sectoral targets along similar lines. We cannot wait till the 11th hour in 2029 and look back then, it will be too late.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan needs to be structured in a similar fashion as that for Enniscorthy DZ, similar to an Energy Master Plan Register of Opportunities (ROO), as outlined in Section 5.5 in the Plan.</p>	<p>BET 4, DZGL 4.</p> <p>The CAP does not distinguish between measures for which the council are fully accountable for versus those they can influence, co-ordinate and facilitate because many of the actions are the responsibility of all these groups – citizens/businesses/ community groups /council.</p> <p>Sectoral Adaptation plans were listed in the Draft CAP under section 1.4.2. National sectoral targets have now been included in this section in Table 1.1. It should be noted that these are national sectoral targets and Wexford's remit it to achieve 51% reduction, overall within the organisation and through advocacy and facilitation, 51% reduction across the county.</p> <p>A Tier 3 Baseline Emission Inventory was completed for the Enniscorthy DZ Register of Opportunities as per the guidelines. A Tier 3 is the bottom-up spatial-led approach for data analysis, to look at a local level of GHG emissions across various sectors and hence allows for more accurate predictions of future Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction achievements.</p>
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	<p>Point 4 is summarised as follows: Just Transition which is listed as a Strategic Goal in DECA, but disappointingly it is not addressed in the LACAP. The importance of this cannot be overemphasised. Everyone needs to feel they are part of the action to reduce Carbon Emissions. There are a number of areas identified in the County.</p> <p>that are acknowledged on the Deprivation register. The Council will be upgrading homes in their ownership, but that does not deal with the issue of other people that are economically/socially deprived. This is extremely important to ensure that no people/communities are left behind. Specific targets should be included in the plan to achieve this Strategic Goal.</p>	<p>A Tier 2 Baseline Emission Inventory was completed for the county. A Tier 2 is the bottom-up approach for data analysis, which takes national datasets and local-scale datasets together to look at county wide GHG emissions across various sectors and hence does not allow for a precise county level Register of Opportunities.</p> <p>Point 4- An additional paragraph on Just Transition has been added to section 4.3 on Communities, Resilience and transition.</p> <p>An Action specific to Just transition for the county of Wexford has been incorporated into Table 4.1 Action CRT 15.</p>
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<p>WXF-C170-18 Wexford Town Sustainable Energy Community (WTSEC)</p>	<p>The following is a summary of specific actions (SA) that are not already referenced in part 1 above.</p> <p>SA 3. Commit to a timeframe to roll out DZs for all the major towns starting immediately with Wexford Town. It will have its SEC EMP completed next Spring.</p> <p>SA 4 Create more enhancement of facilities for walking and cycling for daily Commuters, School goers and Shoppers. Under the Active Travel section there are lots of mentions of Greenways, that's good for recreation but limited for climate mitigation,</p> <p>SA 5. Specify more details and targets for Public transport.</p>	<p>SA 3 The DZ is a test bed area and the lessons learned by this will form part of future CAPs in Wexford.</p> <p>SA 4 & SA5 The following actions in the CAP address sustainable/active travel within Wexford.</p> <p>BET 6 , BET 10, BET 24.</p> <p>BET 9 - This is underway through our Pathfinder scheme where works are proposed for major arterial routes into Wexford town, namely Newtown Road, Roxborough/Drinagh and across town via Beechlawns and Clonard. Other plans are being developed all the time for other District towns and village. In 2021 and 2022 there were upgrades to 2,841 m of footpaths and 8,524 new footpaths constructed under the Active Travel programme. This is on top of improvements to footpaths from other funding sources.</p> <p>Every effort is made to ensure Greenways can be accessed for those wishing to commute– for example the proposed Waterford to New Ross Greenway will travel through densely built-up residential areas with good permeability links planned to the Greenway allowing residents to use the Greenway to access town centres. The Waterford Greenway in Dungarvan</p>
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	<p>SA 8 Maximise direct engagement with all stakeholders and community groups-DECA Strategic Goals and Objectives</p>	<p>is a good example of this where it passes by many residential areas and in turn provides a route for people to walk or cycle safely into the town centre.</p> <p>SA 8 -The PPN have been added as partners to the following actions:</p> <p>GL 6 , GL 9, GL 12, BET 6, SRM 1, SRM 3, SRM 4, NEGI 18, NEGI 21, NEGI 25, CRT 1, CRT 2, CRT 3, CRT 5, DZGL 1, DZNEGI 3, DZSRM 2.</p> <p>DECA goal objective 1.3 and 4.6 is now referenced in Table 4.1 for the following actions:</p> <p>BET 11, BET 13, BET 16, BET 29, BET 31, CRT1, CRT5.</p>
<p>WXF-C170-18 Wexford Town Sustainable Energy Community (WTSEC)</p>	<p><u>CE Recommendation</u></p> <p>The PPN have been added as partners to several actions – see above.</p> <p>DECA goal objective 1.3 and 4.6 is now referenced in Table 4.1 to actions.</p> <p>An additional paragraph on Just Transition has been added to section 4.3 on Communities, Resilience and transition. An Action specific to Just transition for the county of Wexford has been incorporated into Table 4.1 Action CRT 15</p> <p>The national Sectoral Targets have been listed and added to Section 1.4.2, Table 1.1</p>	

Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-19 Individual By Email (E. Monks)	Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from E. Monks and acknowledges the content within and observations made under the below headings.	
WXF-C170-19 Individual By Email (E. Monks)	<p>1.The submission dealt with the following issues in detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Effects • Effects on Wildlife • E-Waste • ICT CO2 footprint • Rockets and Satellites • Proliferation of antennae and masts, where they could otherwise be 'shared' by different services. 	<p>1.A number of the matters raised in this submission are outside the scope of this plan as they refer to issues of national or EU level policy such as satellite saturation etc.</p> <p>Large energy demand from communications and IT infrastructure as part of the work of the county council is addressed in the following actions:</p> <p>BET 28,, BET 30.</p> <p>In relation to waste management Action SRM1 addresses this.</p> <p>See also Section 9.10 'Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology Strategy' in the Written Statement of County development Plan which contains a number of objectives to support the roll out of telecommunications infrastructure - Objectives TC10, TC12 and TC15 within Chapter 9: Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>The preparation of the Draft Wexford Town LAPs will include a policy framework for the development of telecommunications infrastructure in the plan area, balanced with the need to protect residential amenity, visual amenity, and built and natural heritage.</p> <p>The development management standards for new wind farm proposals (Energy Strategy contained in Volume 10 of the CDP)</p>

		require consultation with relevant bodies in relation to any potential electromagnetic interference and for applications to include measures to monitor and remedy any effects on such infrastructure.
WXF-C170-19 Individual By Email (E. Monks)	<p>2.Relevant to the plan the submission addresses</p> <p>Large energy demand from communications and IT infrastructure (e.g. data centres)</p> <p>Large amount of electronic waste produced</p>	<p>2.Data Centres</p> <p>Any applications for Data Centres will be assessed on its merits in accordance with the objectives of the County Development Plan and subject to normal planning and environmental criteria. Section 6.3 of the Energy Strategy sets out objectives for District Heating and Objective ES22 states that it is the objective of the Council <i>“to support and facilitate the installation of district heating technologies in new developments, including multi-unit apartment developments, commercial and industrial developments. Where district heating is proposed, the associated infrastructure, networks and services for such systems shall be identified at planning stage and the long-term management and maintenance arrangements shall be to the satisfaction of the Council.”</i></p> <p>All sources of waste heat will be considered as part of the delivery and operation of a district heat system subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</p>
WXF-C170-19 Individual By Email (E. Monks)	<p>CE Recommendations</p> <p>No modification is proposed to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on the basis of this submission, for the reasons set out above.</p>	

Submission	Key Comments	Response & Recommendation
WXF-C170-20 National Federation of Group Water Schemes	The National Federation of Group Water Schemes is the representative organisation for the community owned group water scheme in Ireland. Wexford County Council welcomes the submission from the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and acknowledges the content within and observations made under the below headings.	
WXF-C170-20 National Federation of Group Water Schemes	<p>LA Support require by the NFGWS</p> <p>The following summaries the submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sector is preparing as best it can for such event's, through monitoring, contingency planning etc. but it will need continued support from local authorities in future-proofing supplies and helping to ensure continued water supply to members. • The NFGWS urges local authorities to ensure issues related to drinking water provision are to the fore in local authority actions plans. Access to safe and secure drinking water is, as the United Nations states, 'at the centre of the climate crisis'. 	<p>The following actions relate to rural water and Group Schemes and address many of the observations of climatic impacts of group water schemes.</p> <p>NEGI 12, CRT 13.</p>
WXF-C170-20 National Federation of Group Water Schemes	<p>CE Recommendations</p> <p>No modification is proposed to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 on the basis of this submission, for the reasons set out above.</p>	

	Additional non-material modifications to the CAP:
<p>Non-Submission Modifications to Draft Climate Action Plan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional Text on Sectoral Emission targets added in section 1.4.2. 2. Some statistics in Chapter 2 updated with 2022 data where available from CSO. 3. Text referencing the Blue Flag Marinas added to Section 2.10. 4. Section 2.7.2 - Text on Rail amended and Section 2.13 Text on Economic Development deleted. 5. GL 3(A3) Facilities Manager is now included in this action. 6. Adverse Weather protocol is added to Action GL 4(A4) and the following partners have been added: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. An Garda Siochana b. Housing Section c. Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU) d. Voluntary Groups. 7. Minor modifications to images, graphics and charts have been made in the plan. 8. Change in action prefix in Section 4.4 Table 4.1 and Section 5.5 Table 5.3 as per CARO request. 9. Sustainable Development Goals pertinent to the action areas were added as graphics to Chapter 4, section 4.3.1 (as requested by CARO). 10. Additional DECA Goal Objectives listed in Action Tables 4.1 and 5.3. 11. Additional Text on the Reimagining Enniscorthy public art & community decarbonisation project added to Section 5.4.1.11. 12. Farming Communities added in as stakeholder to Section 6.1 and reference added in to EPA's 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind. 13. Text on Public Communications and engagement added to Chapter 6 Section 6.4.2. 14. Text added to Chapter 6 under Section 6.4 Reporting Requirement and Arrangements on Energy Elephant Energy Management System- Section 6.4.3 and ISO 50001 Energy Management Standard - Section 6.4.4. 15. Additional items added to the Glossary of terms.

5 Conclusions

This Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received to the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan, during Public Consultation, is hereby submitted to the Elected Members of the Local Authority, for their consideration.

The Chief Executive's (CE) report and revised Climate Action Plan (and all associated environmental reports) were made available to the Elected Members in mid-January. The Elected Members had 4 weeks to consider this CE Report and associated documents, in accordance with the requirements of the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021. Elected Members were briefed on 31st of January 2024, to provide an overview of the CE Report and the modifications to the Climate Action Plan. On 12th February 2024, the monthly meeting of Wexford County Council will include on the agenda, a decision by resolution, whether to:

- approve, or
- approve, subject to such modifications as they consider appropriate, the local authority climate action plan.

Following consideration of the Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, the Chief Executive's Report on the Public Consultation, the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening reports, it is proposed that the Draft Climate Action Plan be approved by the Elected Members, in accordance with the recommendations of this report.

The Elected Members shall give approval for the Climate Action Plan, only after having determined that the Plan shall not adversely affect the integrity of a European Site(s) in line with SI 477 (EU Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended.

Within thirty (30) days of the approval of the final local authority Climate Action Plan by the Elected Members, the Council will publish the final plan. The Climate Action Plan shall have effect for a period of five years from the date on which it is approved by the Elected Members.

Appendix I: DECA Objectives

<p><i>Strategic Goal 1: Foster governance, leadership and partnerships for climate action</i></p>
<p>Key Objective 1.1 Advocate for local government as a lead sector in relation to climate action, and influence local and national policy so that it can effectively leverage this leadership position.</p>
<p>Key Objective 1.2 Ensure that local authorities are aligned, resourced and funded to capitalise on this leadership position in relation to climate action.</p>
<p>Key Objective 1.3 Build internal capacity and awareness, from elected members through to the 28,000 local authority employees to embed climate action across all local authority activities.</p>
<p>Key Objective 1.4 Build capacity and readiness in relation to working with communities and other strategic partners to effect transformative climate action in each city and county.</p>
<p>Key Objective 1.5 Gather and share data to ensure that local authority research, expertise and experience is leveraged for climate action.</p>
<p><i>Strategic Goal 2 Achieve our carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030 and 2050</i></p>
<p>Key Objective 2.1 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our housing, offices, infrastructure and transport fleet in line with national 2030 and 2050 targets.</p>
<p>Key Objective 2.2 Increase the proportion of green procurement so we can measure, manage and reduce emissions from the production, transportation and disposal of goods and services procured.</p>
<p>Key Objective 2.3 Develop investment strategies for transformative decarbonisation projects. These investment strategies will focus on achieving the maximum levels of emissions reduction</p>

<p><i>Strategic Goal 3: Deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience.</i></p>
<p>Key Objective 3.1 Continue implementation of local authority climate adaptation strategies, enhance access to climate risk data and assist communities in local resilience planning.</p>
<p>Key Objective 3.2 Capture the opportunities from climate action by enhancing our environment, buildings and infrastructure to increase the climate resilience of our organisations, our infrastructure and our communities.</p>
<p>Key Objective 3.3 Prioritise nature-based solutions, where possible.</p>
<p>Key Objective 3.4 Support other agencies in the implementation of other sectoral plans at local level.</p>
<p>Key Objective 3.5 Continue to advance and embed climate adaptation within all forward and physical planning processes.</p>
<p><i>Strategic Goal 4 Mobilise climate action in local communities</i></p>
<p>Key Objective 4.1 Identify what matters to communities in relation to climate action and climate resilience - now and in the future.</p>
<p>Key Objective 4.2 Inform and create awareness about effective climate action measures.</p>
<p>Key Objective 4.3 Support communities in co-creating a vision for low carbon and resilient cities and counties and enable them to follow through with meaningful and impactful climate action.</p>

<p>Key Objective 4.4 Seek out and develop partnerships with external agencies to catalyse climate action projects at community level.</p>
<p>Key Objective 4.5 Motivate and create demand for climate action through capacity building programmes, policy/financial instruments and local development and wellbeing programmes.</p>
<p>Key Objective 4.6 Pilot replicable demonstration projects and evaluate same.</p>
<p><i>Strategic Goal 5 Mobilise climate action in enterprise and support transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy</i></p>
<p>Key Objective 5.1 Embed climate change and the circular economy in implementation of all local economic strategies and Local Economic and Community Plans.</p>
<p>Key Objective 5.2 Promote the development of a thriving green economy in which enterprises are supported to take advantage of emerging green business opportunities</p>
<p>Key Objective 5.3 Promote climate action and green skills in training and education in partnership with Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs)</p>
<p>Key Objective 5.4 Undertake a circular economy strategy, based on analysis of the local priority sectors, material flows and waste streams, e.g. municipal and industrial material flows, waste generation and explore the options for circular procurement.</p>
<p>Key Objective 5.5 Support the growth and development of lower carbon enterprises through supplier development programmes that align with green procurement strategies.</p>
<p>Key Objective 5.6 Utilise best practice in promoting economic opportunities that arise from climate action with local enterprise.</p>

<p><i>Strategic Goal 6: Achieve a just transition particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects</i></p>
<p>Key Objective 6.1 Identify sectors and communities vulnerable to the regressive effects of climate change and/or the impacts of climate policy.</p>
<p>Key Objective 6.2 Identify and implement measures to support these sectors and communities.</p>
<p>Key Objective 6.3 Address fuel poverty in social housing.</p>

Appendix II: List of Persons, Organisations and Bodies who made Submissions

Submission Reference	Name
WXF-C170-1	Seán Thim O'Leary
WXF-C170-2	Lea Bonheim
WXF-C170-3	Environmental Protection Agency
WXF-C170-4	Wexford Local Development
WXF-C170-5	DAFM – Sea Fisheries Co-ordination
WXF-C170-6	Individual
WXF-C170-7	Community Gardens Ireland
WXF-C170-8	Courtown Community Council
WXF-C170-9	Knockingall Organisation Community Centre
WXF-C170-10	Mr. Ambrose Dowling
WXF-C170-11	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media
WXF-C170-12	Individual
WXF-C170-13	Wexford Bus
WXF-C170-14	Individual
WXF-C170-15	Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN)
WXF-C170-16	Not Here Not Anywhere
WXF-C170-17	Uisce Éireann
WXF-C170-18	Wexford Town Sustainable Energy Community (WTSEC)
WXF-C170-19	E. Monks es-ireland.com
WXF-C170-20	National Federation of Group Water Schemes

Appendix III: Public Notice of Draft Plan Public Consultation

<p>Comhairle Contae Loch Garman Carricklawn, Wexford Y35 WY93</p>  <p>Wexford County Council</p> <p>053 919 6000 www.wexfordcoco.ie customerservice@wexfordcoco.ie</p>	
<p>PROPERTY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF VESTING ORDER</p> <p>SECTION 17 OF THE DERELICT SITES ACT 1990</p> <p>WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <p>WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as the "Local Authority" in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 has on the 5th day of October 2023 made a Vesting Order in respect of the lands described in the Schedule hereto.</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 of the making of the Vesting Order.</p> <p>A copy of the Vesting Order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at the offices of Wexford County Council, Property Management Unit, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford.</p> <p>SCHEDULE</p> <p>ALL THAT part of the Townland of Townperks, situate in the Barony of Gorey and County of Wexford being all the lands delineated in red on the map attached to the Vesting Order and known as 1 Centenary Place, Gorey, Co Wexford.</p> <p>Elizabeth Hore Director of Services</p>	<p>CLIMATE ACTION</p>   <p>DRAFT WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 – 2029</p> <p>Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021</p> <p>Wexford County Council has prepared a Draft Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the period 2024 – 2029. The Draft CAP sets out how the local authority can promote a range of mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to help deliver the Government's National Climate Objective to achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, a transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.</p> <p>The Draft CAP is accompanied by an Environmental Report, prepared 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 (SEA) and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report, pursuant to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.</p> <p>A copy of the Draft CAP and associated documents is available to view online at https://icons.wexfordcoco.ie</p> <p>The Draft CAP may be inspected during public opening hours from Tuesday 10th October 2023 until Tuesday 21st November 2023 inclusive at the following locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gorey-Kinuckridge Municipal District Offices, Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford, Y25V1W52 New Ross Municipal District Offices, The Thopps, Quay Street, New Ross, Co Wexford, Y34 CF64 Enniscorthy Municipal District Offices, Market Square, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, Y21W2V4 Rosslare Municipal District Offices, Block A, Carricklawn, Wexford, Y35 WY93 Borough District of Wexford Offices, The Bull Ring, Wexford, Y35 EA00 Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford, Y35 WY93 <p>At the following Public Libraries during normal opening hours:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bunclody Library, Millwood, Carrigduff, Bunclody, Co. Wexford, Y21 E970 Enniscorthy Library, Lymington Road, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, Y21 AD92 New Ross Library, Barrack Lane, New Ross, Co. Wexford, Y34 NW56 Wexford Library, Main Street, Wexford, Y35 AY20 Gorey Library, Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford, Y25V1W52 <p>Making a Submission or Observation</p> <p>Written submissions or observations regarding the Draft CAP, SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Report, are invited from members of the public and other interested parties. Submissions or observations may be made in one of two ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Online via the Council's Public Consultation Portal at https://icons.wexfordcoco.ie In writing (marked "Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan") to: Climate Action Team, Environment Section, Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford. <p>Submissions or observations must be made in writing no later than 5.00 pm, on Tuesday 21st November 2023. Late submissions will not be accepted.</p> <p>Please consider the following in making your submission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Submissions should be in ONE medium only i.e. online or in hard copy. Submissions or observations should include your name and address and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc. you represent. Children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children, are particularly encouraged to make submissions or observations. Written submissions or observations with respect to the Draft CAP, made within the period stated, will be taken into consideration before the making of the CAP. Please ensure that no vexatious, libellous or confidential information, including confidential information relating to a third party (in respect of which the third party has not, expressly, or impliedly in the circumstances, consented to its disclosure) is included. All submissions/observations will be subject to the Data Protection Act 1988-2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2014. <p>Public Information Drop-in Events</p> <p>Council staff will be available to provide guidance on the Draft CAP and on the consultation process at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wexford Library - Monday 23rd October - 10.30am to 12 noon Stella Maris, Kilmore Quay - Monday 23rd October - 2pm to 3.30pm Gorey Library - Tuesday 24th October Time - 10.30am to 12 noon Enniscorthy Library - Tuesday 24th October - 2pm to 3.30pm New Ross Library - Wednesday 25th October - 10.30am to 12 noon <p>If you require more details, please contact the Environment Section at 053-9196000 or email climateaction@wexfordcoco.ie</p> <p>Signed: Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Libraries, Arts, Emergency Services, Environment & Climate Change Date: 10/10/2023</p>
<p>NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF VESTING ORDER</p> <p>SECTION 17 OF THE DERELICT SITES ACT 1990</p> <p>WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <p>WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as the "Local Authority" in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 has on the 5th day of October 2023 made a Vesting Order in respect of the lands described in the Schedule hereto.</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 of the making of the Vesting Order.</p> <p>A copy of the Vesting Order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at the offices of Wexford County Council, Property Management Unit, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford.</p> <p>SCHEDULE</p> <p>ALL THAT part of the Townland of Townperks, situate in the Barony of Forth and County of Wexford being all the lands delineated in red on the map attached to the Vesting Order and known as 5 May Street, Wexford Town, Co Wexford.</p> <p>Elizabeth Hore Director of Services</p>	<p>NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF VESTING ORDER</p> <p>SECTION 17 OF THE DERELICT SITES ACT 1990</p> <p>WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <p>WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as the "Local Authority" in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 has on the 5th day of October 2023 made a Vesting Order in respect of the lands described in the Schedule hereto.</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 of the making of the Vesting Order.</p> <p>A copy of the Vesting Order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at the offices of Wexford County Council, Property Management Unit, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford.</p> <p>SCHEDULE</p> <p>ALL THAT part of the Townland of Townperks, situate in the Barony of Forth and County of Wexford being all the lands delineated in red on the map attached to the Vesting Order and known as 2A May Street, Wexford Town, Co Wexford.</p> <p>Elizabeth Hore Director of Services</p>
<p>NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF VESTING ORDER</p> <p>SECTION 17 OF THE DERELICT SITES ACT 1990</p> <p>WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <p>WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as the "Local Authority" in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 has on the 5th day of October 2023 made a Vesting Order in respect of the lands described in the Schedule hereto.</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 of the making of the Vesting Order.</p> <p>A copy of the Vesting Order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at the offices of Wexford County Council, Property Management Unit, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford.</p> <p>SCHEDULE</p> <p>ALL THAT part of the Townland of Townperks, situate in the Barony of Ballyhkeen South and County of Wexford being all the lands delineated in red on the map attached to the Vesting Order and known as The Old Oylegate, Theol, Edmerville, Co Wexford.</p> <p>Elizabeth Hore Director of Services</p>	<p>NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF VESTING ORDER</p> <p>SECTION 17 OF THE DERELICT SITES ACT 1990</p> <p>WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <p>WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as the "Local Authority" in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 has on the 5th day of October 2023 made a Vesting Order in respect of the lands described in the Schedule hereto.</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 of the making of the Vesting Order.</p> <p>A copy of the Vesting Order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at the offices of Wexford County Council, Property Management Unit, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford.</p> <p>SCHEDULE</p> <p>ALL THAT part of the Townland of Townperks, situate in the Barony of Ballyhkeen South and County of Wexford being all the lands delineated in red on the map attached to the Vesting Order and known as The Old Oylegate, Theol, Edmerville, Co Wexford.</p> <p>Elizabeth Hore Director of Services</p>

Street Lights Broken?
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Outside office hours call: **053 919 6000**
Register on www.mapalserter.com for free text and email alerts about service disruptions in your locality

Planning app, lists available at
www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning

Appendix III: SEA Screening Conclusion and Determination and AA Screening Conclusion and Determination

SEA Screening Conclusion and Determination

A screening determination for the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been made by Wexford County Council for the Modifications to the Draft LACAP under Directive 2001/42/EC. The screening assessment was carried out using the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects as set out in Schedule 1 of S.I. 435/2004, as amended.

Following assessment of the criteria and having regard to the nature of the Modifications to the Draft LACAP and the potential for likely significant environmental effects associated with the Modifications, Wexford County Council has concluded that the Modifications to the Draft LACAP will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment.

This determination has been made following consideration of the information contained in an SEA Screening Report for the Modifications to the Draft LACAP, and the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to S.I. 435/2004, as amended. The principal reasons the Modifications to the Draft LACAP will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment are as follows:

- The modifications are only intended to provide clarification on existing Climate Actions defined in the Draft LACAP and make the LACAP more operative and focussed.
- The modification are not material and will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered in the SEA Environmental Report for the Draft LACAP.

Taking account of the above, it is determined that full SEA is not required to be undertaken for the Modifications to the Draft LACAP.

AA Screening Conclusion and Determination

A NIR was produced for the Draft LACAP. The NIR considered the potential for the LACAP to adversely affect the integrity of European sites, with regard to their Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests. The Draft LACAP was informed by the AA and a Natura Impact Report was prepared outlining the likely environmental effects of the Plan on European sites in accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Measures were integrated into the Draft LACAP that mitigate its potential effects on any European site.

Modifications to the Draft LACAP were made following a review of the issues raised during a period of prescribed public consultation period for the Draft LACAP from 10 October 2023 to 21 November 2023 and subsequent consideration by Wexford County Council. Following assessment and having regard to the nature of the Modifications to the Draft LACAP and the potential for likely significant environmental effects associated with the Modifications, Wexford County Council concluded, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the Modifications to the Draft LACAP will not give rise to any likely significant effects on designated European Sites, alone or in combination with any other plans or projects. An AA Screening Determination was made in relation to this effect.

Wexford County Council, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as transposed by S.I. No. 477/2011, as amended, determines that the adoption and implementation of the LACAP will not individual or in combination with any other plan or project adversely the integrity of any European site.