

## Appendix 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Monitoring Report

	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
<b>Biodiversity (Flora &amp; Fauna) (B)</b>	Number and extent and condition of Protected Sites and habitats.	Protect, conserve and restore (where possible) all designated sites and species within and adjoining/adjacent to the Plan area.	NPWS (Reports under Article 17 of Habitats Directive and Article 12 of Birds Directive).	<p>No update since the making of the Plan. Reporting on the conservation status of species and habitats under Article 17 is carried out every six years. The latest report published by NPWS in 2019 presents the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting cycle for the period 2013-2018 and shows that 85% of habitats are in unfavourable (i.e. Inadequate or Bad) status, with 46% of habitats demonstrating ongoing declining trends and just 2% improving. The species status assessments are much better, with 57% of species having favourable status, 30% unfavourable status. 17% are improving and 15% are in decline.<sup>1</sup> The next report, due in 2025, will cover the period 2019-2024.</p> <p>The EPA State of the Environment Report 2024 refers to the NPWS 2019 reports for protected habitats and protected species but also reports that 63% of Ireland's bird species are in serious trouble. It also notes the increase in Ireland's Marine Protected Areas including the Seas off Wexford SPA, designated in January 2024, which is over 3000 km2 in size and is the largest SPA in Ireland. The Report concludes that the overall current assessment for nature is 'very poor' (the same as in 2020). Deteriorating trends dominate, especially for protected habitats and bird populations, and Ireland is not on track to achieve policy objectives for nature. While the recent expansion of marine protected areas is welcome, additional far-reaching measures are needed to address the declines in nature and biodiversity.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 (NPWS, 2024) identifies the threats and pressures to biodiversity in Ireland which include overgrazing, undergrazing, land abandonment, water and air pollution, alien and problematic species, recreation, development (particularly residential, agricultural and commercial), land drainage, urban wastewater, river barriers and the modification of coastal areas. In addition to species-specific threats and pressures such as overfishing or over-exploitation, declines in habitat quality are having negative impacts on the wildlife that lives, feeds and breeds in them.</p> <p><b>Action: Continue to monitor and implement the mitigation measures/objectives identified in the CDP. Await the 2025 Reports by NPWS under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and Article 12 of the Birds Directive. This will inform the review/baseline of the next CDP.</b></p>
	Number of WCC plans and projects which enhance the biodiversity value of non-designated sites.	Adoption of biodiversity and green infrastructure objectives in future Local Area Plans (LAPs).	Wexford County Council	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are being carried out in tandem with the preparation of the Draft Wexford Town LAP. A Rainwater Management Plan (RMP) and Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBIS) are also being prepared as part of the LAP and habitat mapping is being carried out as part of that process. These strategies will inform the objectives in the LAP.


<sup>1</sup> [https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS\\_2019\\_Vol1\\_Summary\\_Article17.pdf](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol1_Summary_Article17.pdf) [accessed 3rd April 2025]

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring-assessment/assessment/state-of-the-environment/EPA-SOE-Report-2024-BOOK-LOWRES.pdf> [accessed 3rd April 2025]

	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
		Adoption of a new County Wexford Biodiversity Plan.	Wexford County Council	(April 2025) - Biodiversity Plan has commenced and is at pre-draft consultation stage. A consultation paper has been prepared and a number of drop-in consultation workshops are currently taking place in libraries. It is intended that a Draft Plan will be prepared by Q4 2025.
		Adoption of a new County Heritage Plan.	Wexford County Council	Heritage Plan not commenced. It is intended that the Plan will be prepared in 2025.
		Increase in the number of Council-wide initiatives undertaken which promote biodiversity.	Wexford County Council	<p>Biodiversity Projects carried out by WCC (funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund) since the adoption of the Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetlands Survey Phase 1 (County) and Phase 2 (Gorey Kilmuckridge MD).<sup>3</sup> Phase 3 (2024 Enniscorthy MD) and Phase 4 (2025 – Rosslare MD and Wexford MD) are pending funding from NPWS.</li> <li>• Tree and Hedgerow Policy – Partially completed</li> <li>• Barnowl Survey and Booklet</li> <li>• Dune Restoration Works at Curracloe, Kilmuckridge and also at Duncannon as part of the Farming for Nature EIP</li> <li>• Graveyard St. Johns Enniscorthy</li> <li>• County tree/hedge cover digital survey by BlueSky</li> <li>• County Hedgerow Survey 2023</li> <li>• Nightjar Survey with Birdwatch Ireland</li> <li>• Mayfly Survey (as part of the National Mayfly Survey)</li> <li>• Holmestown Closed Landfill Ecological Survey</li> <li>• Killurin Closed Landfill Ecological Survey</li> </ul> <p>Planned for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Awareness events</li> <li>• Biodiversity training for staff (incl SuDS which has taken place)</li> <li>• IAS control Tintern Abbey (Cherry Laurel control)</li> <li>• Nightjar survey 2025 (Phase 2)</li> <li>• Wetlands survey 2025 (Phase 4)</li> <li>• Returning to Nature Pilot with Wexford Parishes (6 Parishes initially) <a href="#">Returning to Nature   Wexford County Council</a></li> </ul> <p>The <u>Climate Action Plan</u> was adopted by WCC in Feb 2024. The plan includes a Vision to achieve by no later than the end of the year 2050 a Climate Resilient, Biodiversity Rich, Environmentally Sustainable, and Climate Neutral Economy in County Wexford. The plan incorporates both mitigation and adaptation measures and includes the development of a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) in Enniscorthy. The DZ is the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity measures. A Climate Action Team and a Steering Group is in place tasked with implementing the actions contained in the Plan. See under</p>

<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that not every wetland is included in these surveys. The selection of survey sites was determined based on the budget and resources made available for the project. The final list of sites proposed for survey was considered representative of the more common wetland habitats within the county.

	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
				<p>Climate Action Plan Implementation Report 2024 below for details on number of actions completed or in progress.</p> <p>A Biodiversity Officer was appointed in June 2024 and continues to apply a number of biodiversity initiatives leveraging available funding which includes raising awareness and staff training. See Chapter 2 Climate Action and Chapter 13 Heritage and Conservation of the CE Report for further information on biodiversity projects and initiatives.</p>
	Extent of biodiversity gains associated with renewable energy and housing developments.	Maximise biodiversity gains associated with new renewable energy and rural housing developments further to the Energy Strategy and Development Management Objective 3.1.2.	Wexford County Council	<p>It is a requirement under the CDP that 15% of the site area of all new permitted solar farms shall be planted with native woodland species for the purposes of habitat creation. All existing hedgerows and trees must also be retained, except for removal of access is required, and perimeter security fencing should incorporate mammal passes where appropriate. In addition, the developer is encouraged to consider opportunities to provide enhanced management of landscape features and habitats where appropriate and, where grazing of livestock under panels is not practical, the sowing of wildflowers and bee-keeping. These standards are being implemented through the development management process. See Chapter 19 for further details on solar permissions granted.</p> <p>All new planning applications for 50 dwellings and above and/or commercial, retail or community development of 1,000 m2 and above, or as otherwise required by the Planning Authority, are required to be accompanied by a Design Statement which includes a statement addressing how the Landscape Concept, green infrastructure and biodiversity have been incorporated into the design.</p> <p>For all new applications for rural dwellings provision must be made within the site for biodiversity as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For rural dwellings with a floor area of 100m2 to 300m2 a minimum of 20% of the site must be set aside for additional tree planting and measures to promote biodiversity.</li> <li>• For dwellings over 300m2 50% of the site area must be set aside for additional tree planting and measures to promote biodiversity</li> </ul> <p>These standards are being implemented through the development management process.</p>
		Increase in the use of nature-based SuDS as part of new developments and the retrofit of existing developments, public spaces and streets.	Wexford County Council	<p>This is being implemented through the development management process and Local Authority own development where appropriate. Nature based drainage systems are included in all new infrastructure designs and retrofitted in works as appropriate and where funding allows. The Climate Action Team are also engaging with LAWPRO on suggested demonstrator NBS projects.</p> <p>An example of a completed nature-based SUDS is Grogans Road, Wexford. This kind of drainage can potentially have numerous benefits for urban spaces.</p>

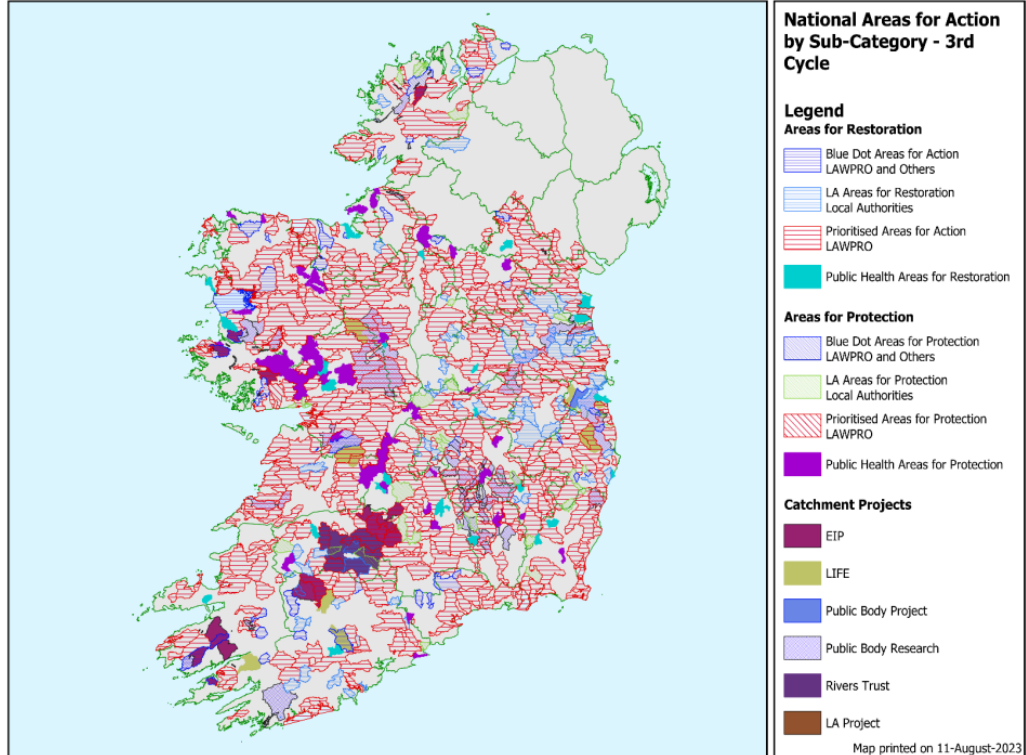
	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
				 <p>The Forward Planning Team are currently preparing a Rainwater Management Plan (RMP) incorporating NBS as part of the Wexford Town Local Area Plan. It will be among the first RMP of scale in the Country.</p>
<b>Population and Human Health (PHH)</b>	Extent of unemployment and deprivation in the county.	Decrease in the number of people unemployed, and an improvement in the deprivation levels reported in the Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2016.	Central Statistics Office (CSO) and other relevant external sources	<p>There were 6,827 persons on the Live Register in County Wexford in February 2025 compared to 7,350 in February 2024 and 7,855 in February 2023. This shows a steady decline in the number of people on the Live Register since the adoption of the Plan.</p> <p>The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is based on the combination of three dimensions of relative affluence and deprivation: Demographic Profile, Social Class Composition, Labour Market Situation. The Pobal HP Deprivation Index for County Wexford was -4.09 in 2022 (marginally below average). This was a slight improvement on -4.81 in 2016 (marginally below average).</p> <p>Very disadvantaged areas remain in Enniscorthy, New Ross, Clonroche, Taghmon and Bunclody as well as pockets of Wexford Town, Gorey and Ardamine. Parts of Campile and Rosslare Harbour also fell from disadvantaged to very disadvantaged.</p> <p>On the other hand, parts of Wexford Town, Castlebridge, Gorey Town and north of Courtown remain classed as affluent or very affluent with additional areas at Old Ross, St. Helen's, Castlebridge, Ballyhuskard and Ballyvaldon classed as affluent in 2022.<sup>4</sup></p> <p><b>Action: Continue to implement the Economic and Sustainable Communities objectives in the Plan. Continue to implement Age Friendly, Healthy Wexford and Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programmes and seek to extend to other disadvantaged areas where possible and subject to funding.</b></p>

<sup>4</sup> <https://data.pobal.ie/Portal/apps/sites/#/pobal-maps> [accessed 31st March 2025]

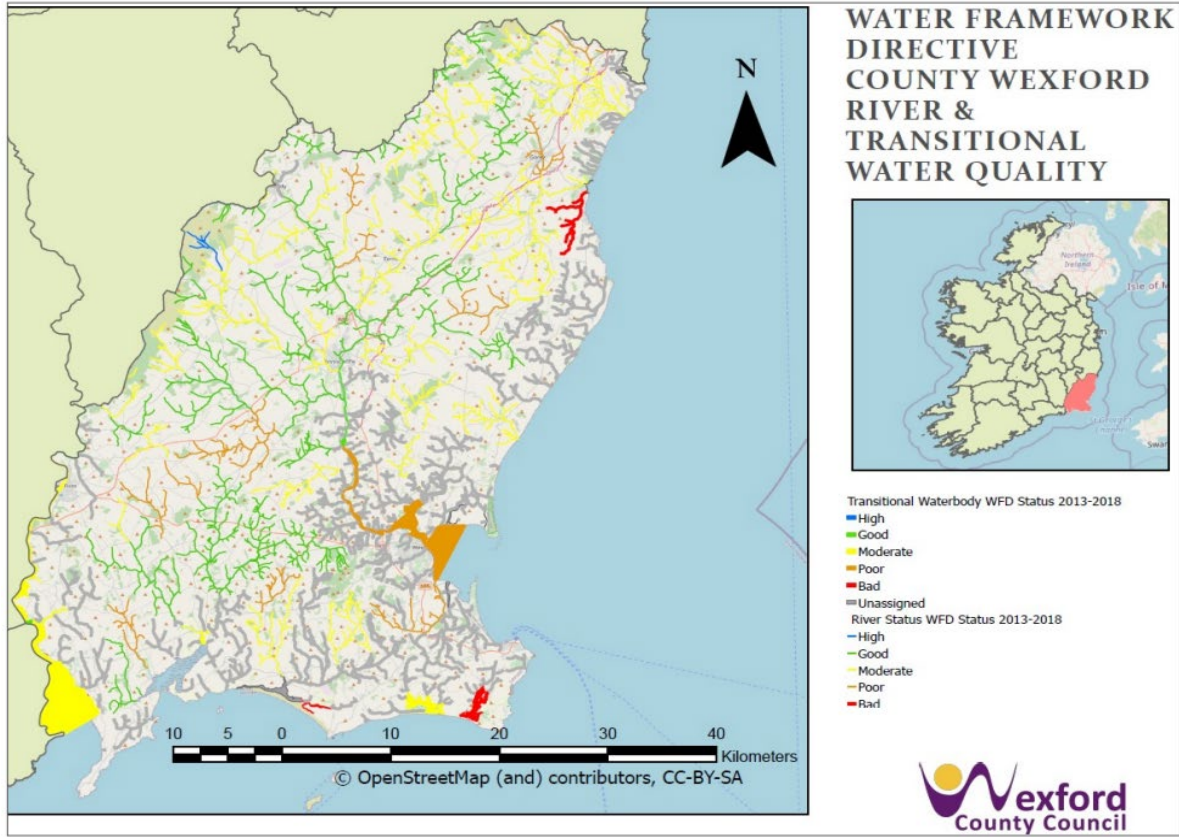
	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
	Extent of new open space, playgrounds, amenities, cultural building and other social infrastructure granted/developed.	Secure the implementation of the relevant standards and requirements relating to open space and play facilities in Chapters 14 and 15 of the Plan, and the delivery of other social and community infrastructure.	Wexford County Council	<p>This is being implemented through the development management process. Chapter 5 Design and Placemaking in Towns and Villages, Chapter 14 Recreation and Open Space Strategy and Chapter 15 Sustainable Community and Social Infrastructure Strategy in the CE Report provide details on local authority own developments since the adoption of the Plan which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gorey Town Park</li> <li>• Min Ryan Park, Wexford</li> <li>• Wexford Arts Centre Extension</li> <li>• High Hill Park, New Ross</li> <li>• Emigrant Park, New Ross</li> <li>• Phase 1 South East Greenway, New Ross</li> <li>• Bellefield Playground, Enniscorthy</li> <li>• Oylegate playground</li> <li>• Walking Trails</li> </ul> <p>Projects in development include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market House Gorey</li> <li>• St. Waleran's Sports and Recreation Complex, Gorey</li> <li>• Wexford to Rosslare Greenway</li> <li>• Phase 2 South East Greenway, New Ross</li> <li>• Skate Park, New Ross</li> <li>• Enniscorthy Sports Hub</li> <li>• All-weather astroturf pitch, Enniscorthy</li> <li>• Wellbeing and Activity Garden at St. John's, Enniscorthy</li> <li>• Playground Springvalley, Enniscorthy</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Park, Bunclody</li> <li>• Water Sports Activity Facility at Curracloe</li> <li>• Gym at Ferndale, Wexford</li> <li>• Walking Trails</li> </ul> <p>Ballynagee Masterplan includes enhanced recreation and amenity infrastructure and facilities including Wexford FC Arena (pitch and stadium, 2 training pitches, car parking, access to new avenue), new changing rooms and a GAA pitch. It includes active and passive recreation and an open space network.</p>
	Number of WCC plans and projects incorporating Healthy Towns, Age Friendly and Accessibility goals.	To implement Healthy Towns, Age Friendly and Accessibility objectives of plan.	Wexford County Council	<p>This is being implemented through the development management process and local authority own development. Relevant WCC Plans adopted since 2022 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2026</li> <li>• Wexford County Council Arts Plan 2023 – 2027</li> <li>• Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029</li> <li>• Corporate Plan 2019-2024</li> <li>• Annual Service Delivery Plans 2023 and 2024</li> <li>• Enniscorthy Town Centre First Plan</li> <li>• New Ross Town Centre First Plan</li> </ul>



	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
				<p>WCC are providing Age Friendly programmes, in conjunction with Pobal. Each of the five Wexford Libraries have Age Friendly Ambassadors and New Ross Library has Age Friendly status. An Older Person's Council (OPC) is in place to focus on delivery of specific actions within the Age Friendly Strategy. Walkability audits have been conducted by the Age Friendly Unit to inform policy decisions.</p> <p>Healthy Towns and Accessibility goals are incorporated into all WCC projects where relevant. See above for open space, playgrounds, amenities, cultural building and other social infrastructure.</p> <p>A number of accessibility projects have also been carried out since the Plan came into effect. A new beach access programme of works was completed in Ballymoney and officially opened in the summer of 2024. The new walkway is now suitable for people of all mobility levels, with the toilet facilities also improved.</p> <p>County Wexford currently has eight beaches that have at least one beach wheelchair available for use (Ballinesker, Ballymoney, Carne, Curracloe, Duncannon, Kilmore Quay, Morriscastle &amp; Rosslare Strand). Since the summer of 2024, five beaches also feature beach strollers (Curracloe, Rosslare Strand, Rosslare Harbour, Kilmore Quay and Duncannon).</p> <p>Accessible toilets are in place at eleven local beaches and bathing areas (Duncannon, Kilmore Quay, Carne, Our Lady's Island, Rosslare Strand, Curracloe, Ballinesker, Ballyconnigar, Morriscastle, Courtown and Ballymoney).</p> <p>WCC Housing Section has a Homeless Services Supports Unit in place since 2019. 10% of houses in all new housing schemes are allocated to Homeless applicants. 20% of housing allocations are to persons with a Disability.</p> <p>The new TAP 2025-2029 has been approved by LTACC and Full council to proceed to public consultation. A committee has been established within WCC Housing to ensure that applicants with very specific housing needs are being designed into any schemes or other delivery streams available to the Council.</p>
<b>Soils &amp; Geology (SG)</b>	Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands.	To achieve a minimum of 30% of all new residential development on infill/brownfield sites.	Wexford County Council	See Annual Core Strategy Monitoring Reports for Years 1 and 2 of the Plan which provide details on the quantum of residential development taking place in the built-up areas of settlements. These reports show that the target for a minimum of 30% of new residential development to take place in the built-up areas of settlements is being exceeded both in terms of new house completions and housing units granted planning permission during the first two years of the Plan.
	Extent of impacts on County Geological Sites	No adverse impacts on County Geological Sites	Wexford County Council, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)	This is being implemented through the development management process. No adverse impacts recorded.

	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
<b>Water Quality (W)</b>	Status of water bodies (ecological and chemical) under the Water Framework Directive	Implementation of the recommendations of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and subsequent Plans.	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO), Wexford County Council	<p>The RBMP has been superseded with a new Water Action Plan 2024: A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (WAP) which covers the third cycle of river-based management. WCC Environment Section collaborated with LAWPRO and contributed to the preparation of the new WAP.</p> <p>The WAP sets out a Programme of Measures to restore Ireland’s waterbodies to ‘good’ status or better, and to protect against further deterioration during the period 2023 to 2027, through an integrated catchment management approach. This includes the development of 46 supplementary Catchment Management Work Plans (to be prepared by LAWPRO) supported by the development of Sectoral Action Work Plans including in relation to agricultural, urban wastewater, pressures impacting hydromorphology and forestry pressures. The WAP also places a greater focus on implementation and enforcement (e.g. increased farm inspections under the Nitrates Action Programme).</p> <p>Other measures include continued investment in wastewater infrastructure over the period 2025-2029 and the establishment of a new national restoration programme to mitigate the negative impacts of barriers on rivers (which impede fish migration) and the natural flow of water bodies.<sup>5</sup></p> <p>The WAP identifies a number of Priority Areas for Action in County Wexford as well as two Blue Dot Areas for Action and two areas for protection (see map below).</p> <p><b>Third Cycle Areas for Action (Source: Water Action Plan 2024)</b></p> 

<sup>5</sup> Clohamon Weir fish passage mitigation on the Slaney River is identified as a pilot project to improve fish passage at a medium scale hydroelectric scheme through a state and community collaborative initiative [https://lawaters.ie/app/uploads/2024/09/Water-Action-Plan\\_Appendix-1-2024\\_v5.pdf](https://lawaters.ie/app/uploads/2024/09/Water-Action-Plan_Appendix-1-2024_v5.pdf) - Appendix 1: Programme of Measures: Further information on the environmental measures to 2027, pg. 18

	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
				<p><b>Action: Continue to work with LAWPRO and other stakeholders on implementing the WAP. The objectives in the CDP support the WFD objectives and the WAP actions including Priority Areas for Action and the Blue Dot Programme.</b></p>
		<p>To achieve and maintain the achievement of “good” ecological and chemical status/potential of waterbodies in accordance with the WFD.</p>	<p>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO), Wexford County Council</p>	<p>EPA Maps show that WFD river waterbody status and transitional waterbody status generally improved from the period 2013-2018 (as reported in baseline in ER) to the period 2016-2021.<sup>6</sup> Of note, the transitional waterbody status of Lady’s Island Lake and Ballyteige Channels improved from ‘bad’ to ‘poor’ and the river waterbody status of three sections of rivers in the north of the county improved from ‘good’ to ‘high’ - Derry (Clonegal), Lask (Craanford) and Bann (Camolin). In addition, the ‘high’ river waterbody status was maintained in a section of the River Urrin to northwest of county (SW of Bunclody). A section of the Aughboy (Courtown and Riverchapel) also improved from ‘poor’ to ‘moderate’ river waterbody status.</p> <p><b>River and Transitional Waterbody Status 2013-2018 (Baseline in ER)</b></p> 

<sup>6</sup> <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>





	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
				<p>in local authority performance with respect to agricultural inspections and states that a range of other pressures, such as septic tanks, regulated discharges to water and impacts from forestry and illegal peat extraction and drainage, could be addressed through effective implementation and enforcement of existing legislation.<sup>7</sup></p> <p>The <b>Water Action Plan 2024: A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland</b> also notes that a comparison of the changes in surface water status between the 2013-2018 assessment and the 2016- 2021 assessment shows that while there have been improvements (443 water bodies) and declines (428 water bodies) in water quality across all classes, there has been little net change in status overall, and a slight net decline in the number of water bodies that are meeting their environmental objectives. However, there were net improvement in river water quality in Priority Areas for Action which may indicate that when targeted action is taken, improvements in water quality can be achieved.</p> <p>The <b>EPA Research Report No. 473 Coastal Lagoons: Ecology and Restoration (CLEAR)</b> states that the ecology of Lady's Island saline lagoon has been severely damaged by nutrient over-enrichment resulting in harmful algal blooms and fish kills. The Report states that the continued decline of Lady's Island lagoon will result in the loss of many specialised species and the disappearance of feeding grounds for migratory birds, as well as reducing the recreational and aesthetic value of these waters. A 5 to 7-fold reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus inputs to the lake will be necessary to return the lagoon to its previous condition. No improvement in the lake's ecology will be possible without a large reduction in nutrient run-off from land. Some amelioration may be possible by protecting the lake shoreline by tree planting, the use of artificial wetlands and the removal of nutrient rich sediments.</p> <p>The research proposes a range of remedial measures to protect and improve the benthic quality of Lady's Island Lake. Following on from this, the NPWS are proposing a programme of water quality and water level monitoring which includes the installation of seven water quality and water level monitoring sondes within the lake.</p> <p><b>Action: Continue to monitor water quality as data becomes available. The objectives in the Plan support the WFD objectives and the WAP actions including Priority Areas for Action and the Blue Dot Programme. Objective NH17 also supports targeted programmes or projects which will be required to improve and restore the status of the large sedimentary lagoons of Wexford. There is no evidence to suggest that implementation of the CDP objectives has impacted on water quality.</b></p>
		To protect, maintain and restore where possible 'High' status water bodies under the Blue Dot Catchment programme.	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO), Wexford County Council	The LIFE Blue Dot Catchment Programme is being piloted by Limerick County Council in conjunction with DECC. WCC have not been engaged to date on that project. The WAP 2024 identifies two Blue Dot Areas in County Wexford. The objectives in the CDP support the actions for these areas to protect and maintain the high waterbody status.

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.catchments.ie/\\_trashed/](https://www.catchments.ie/_trashed/) [accessed 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025]

	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
				<b>Action: Continue to work with LAWPRO in conducting assessments of waterbodies to identify the specific issues and actions that are required to protect or restore water quality as necessary, in accordance with the WAP.</b>
		To ensure future Local Area Plans are prepared having due regard to the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans.	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO), Wexford County Council	The draft Wexford Town LAP is currently being prepared. The Plan and associated SEA will have due regard to the WFD and WAP and the objectives of the plan will be drafted accordingly.
	Number of bathing waters in the county complying with the Bathing Water Directive and Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008.	To maintain and improve water quality at designated Bathing Waters.	EPA, Wexford County Council	In 2023, there were six Blue Flag Beaches in Wexford (up from five in 2021 with the addition of Ballymoney North Beach) and two public marinas at Kilmore Quay and New Ross were also awarded Blue Flags.
	Proportion of new Irish Water wastewater treatment plants (WWTP)	Increase in the number of new WWTPs constructed and delivered by Irish Water.	Irish Water, Wexford County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kilmore Quay – WWTP completed</li> <li>• Arthurstown, Ballyhack, Duncannon - WWTP completed.</li> <li>• Enniscorthy WWTP - upgrade completed.</li> <li>• Enniscorthy Main Drainage - foul collection works at Mary St completed.</li> <li>• Wexford Town Distillery Road PS upgrade – at design stage.</li> <li>• Funding granted by the Department to WCC to provide wastewater infrastructure at Ramsgrange Village in partnership with Uisce Eireann.</li> <li>• Design works progressing under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme for Tagoat and Wellingtonbridge.</li> </ul>
	Proportion of existing WWTP complying with relevant environmental and water quality legislation.	To eliminate public WWTP that do not comply with the relevant legislation.	EPA, Irish Water, Wexford County Council	<p>Key improvements completed during 2023 in response to EPA licence requirements include the new treatment plant at Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford to stop the daily discharge of raw sewage into the Eastern Celtic Sea.</p> <p>The collecting system at Enniscorthy was also upgraded prior to 2023 to meet the necessary standards and address the concerns raised by the Court of Justice of the European Union in 2019.<sup>8</sup></p> <p>Priority urban areas where treatment needs to improve in County Wexford include Ballycanew and Ferns, with the EPA identifying significant pressures on waters at risk of pollution. An upgrade to the WWTP in Ballycanew is expected to be completed in 2030 while no date has been provided for Ferns.<sup>9</sup></p>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/waste-water/urban-wastewater-treatment-in-2023.php> [accessed 31st March 2025]

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/waste-water/priority-areas-list-current.php> [accessed 31st March 2025]

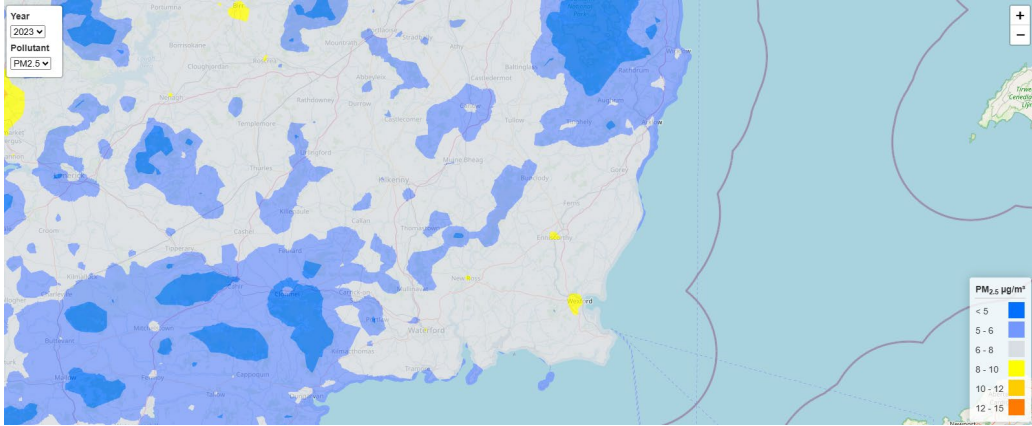
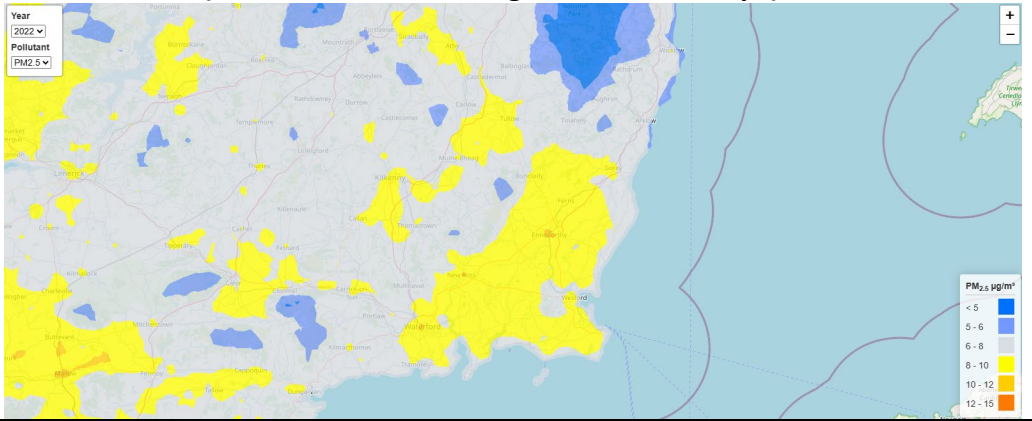
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	Number of water supplies on the EPA Water Supply Remedial Action List.	To eliminate County Wexford water supplies on the EPA Remedial action list.	EPA, Irish Water, Wexford County Council	<p>Clonroche was the only water supply on the EPA's Drinking Water Remedial Action List during the preparation of the Wexford County Development Plan and associated SEA.<sup>10</sup></p> <p>There were two water supplies in County Wexford on the EPA Drinking Water Remedial Action List Q4 of 2023 – Wexford and Enniscorthy – with the Enniscorthy plant having inadequate treatment for cryptosporidium and both plants having EPA audit observed treatment and management issues.<sup>11</sup> Upgrades required to the Water Treatment Plants to resolve these issues are expected to be completed in June 2025. The EPA Drinking Water Remedial Action List of Q4 2024 remains unchanged for County Wexford.<sup>12</sup></p>
	Extent of flood events and associated impacts on people, property and infrastructure in the plan area.	<p>Avoid incompatible development in areas at risk of flooding.</p> <p>To undertake Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of all future LAPS and to incorporate SFRA recommendations into LAP land use zoning and objectives.</p> <p>Increase in the use of nature-based SuDS as part of new developments and the retrofit of existing developments, public spaces and streets.</p>	Wexford County Council	<p>This is being implemented through the development management process.</p> <p>SFRA is being carried out as part of the Wexford Town LAP and will inform the land use zoning and objectives in the Plan. A Rainwater Management Plan (RMP) incorporating Nature Based Solutions (NBS) is also being prepared as part of the Wexford Town LAP. It will be among the first RMP of scale in the Country.</p>
	Number of flood defence schemes.	Implementation of the measures identified in the CFRAM Management Plans including flood defence schemes in Enniscorthy Town and Wexford Town.	Wexford County Council, OPW	<p>Nicholas O'Dwyer has been appointed to design a new Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) for Wexford Town &amp; Environs. The scheme is currently at Stage I: Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design.</p> <p>The Enniscorthy FRS is proceeding on a phased basis. Phase 1 of the project includes the construction of the new River Slaney Bridge, the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge and the construction of a new pedestrian bridge in the town centre. Baseline data gathering for Phase 1 is now complete and design options are currently being assessed. Consultation is scheduled to take place in Q1 2025 and the estimated timeline to planning submission is Q4 2025. Work is progressing on updating ecological and project baseline data for Phase 2 which will consist of the flood relief works.</p> <p>See Chapter 9 for further details on this and other flood defence measures being progressed by WCC.</p>

<sup>10</sup> <https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/en/system/files/materials/1281/SEA%20Environmental%20Report.pdf> (pg. 169)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/annual-drinking-water-reports/Copy-of-Q4-2023-RAL-for-Drinking-Water-Supplies-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/annual-drinking-water-reports/Q4-2024-RAL-for-public-drinking-water-supplies-FINAL.pdf> [accessed 31st March 2025]



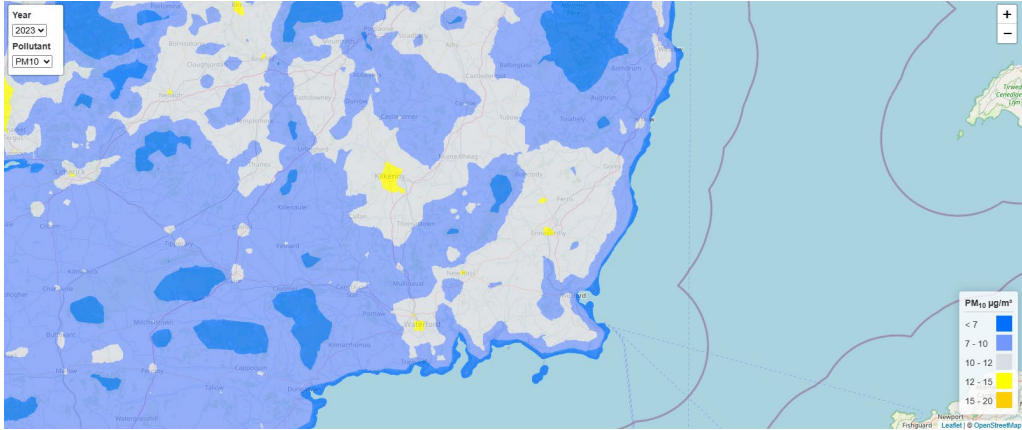
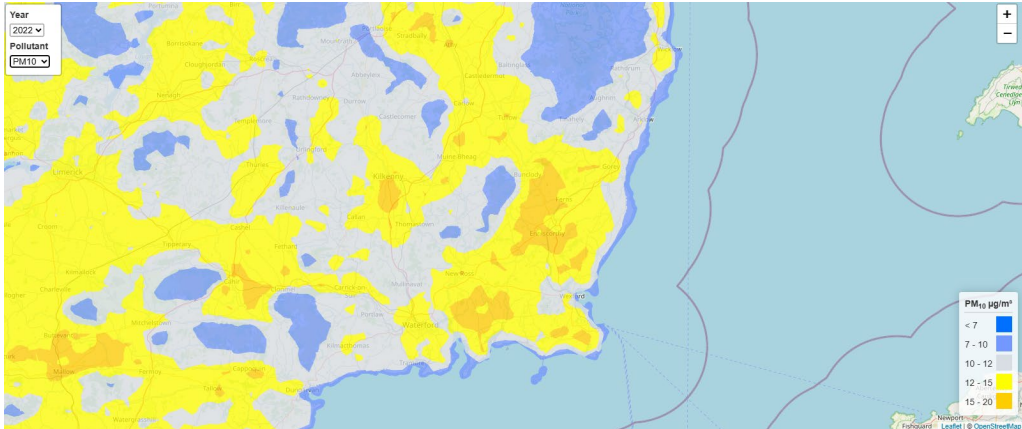
	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
<b>Air Quality &amp; Noise (AN)</b>	Measurable reductions in concentrations of NO <sub>x</sub> , SO <sub>x</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> and PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Improvement in the concentrations of measured parameters such as Particulate Matter, Sulphur Dioxide and nitrogen oxides.	Wexford County Council, EPA	<p>Monitoring equipment is currently being upgraded at four air quality monitoring stations across the county. Air quality monitoring shows that there have been improvements in PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> since the introduction of the Smokey Fuels Regulations and Enniscorthy Town and Wexford Town in particular saw a reduction in the number of exceedances in 2023 compared to previous years. The EPA Annual Air Quality Bulletin 2023 shows that the daily PM<sub>10</sub> limit (50 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) was exceeded in Enniscorthy Town on two dates and in Wexford Town on one date in 2023.<sup>13</sup> This compares to five exceedances in Enniscorthy Town and five exceedances in Wexford Town in 2022.<sup>14</sup></p> <p>EPA Air Quality Index Maps show the average annual pollutants, including particulate matter PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>, nitrogen dioxide and ozone.<sup>15</sup> In terms of particulate matter the maps show a general improvement in the county between 2022 and 2023. However, PM<sub>10</sub> was still higher in Enniscorthy, New Ross and a small area at Ballycarney/Castledockrell in 2023 compared to the rest of the County, while PM<sub>2.5</sub> was higher in Wexford Town, Enniscorthy and New Ross. The maps show that average annual nitrogen dioxide levels generally remained the same while there was a dis-improvement in ozone.</p> <p><b>PM2.5 in 2023 (Source: EPA Annual High Resolution Maps)</b></p>  <p><b>PM2.5 in 2022 (Source: EPA Annual High Resolution Maps)</b></p> 

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/air/ambient-air-monitoring/Annual-Air-Quality-Bulletin-2023.pdf> [accessed 28th March 2025]

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/air/ambient-air-monitoring/Air-Quality-Bulletin-Annual-2022.pdf> [accessed 28th March 2025]

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.airquality.ie/annual-maps> [accessed 28th March 2025]



	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
				<p><b>PM10 in 2023 (Source: EPA Annual High Resolution Maps)</b></p>  <p><b>PM10 in 2022 (Source: EPA Annual High Resolution Maps)</b></p>  <p>The EPA ‘State of the Environment Report 2024 - Summary Booklet’ notes that while PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions in 2023 are compliant EU limits most monitoring stations are above the WHO guideline levels and the dominant source is from the burning of fossil fuels. Achieving Ireland’s ambition to move towards the WHO guideline levels for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, while challenging, will have a significant and positive impact on health.<sup>16</sup></p> <p>The Report also notes that Ireland is compliant with its 2020 sulphur dioxide emission reduction commitment for sulphur dioxide and is projected to comply with future emission reduction commitments. Nitrogen dioxide emissions are also projected to comply with the 2030 commitment provided that planned measures are implemented. Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide are not currently measured by WCC.</p> <p><b>Action: Continue to monitor air quality at the four monitoring stations and also at Ballycarney/Casteldockrell as data becomes available. Applications for significant new industrial or agricultural development should include an assessment of emissions.</b></p>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-the-environment/EPA-SOE-Key-Messages.pdf> [accessed 3rd April 2025]

	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring																		
	Proportion of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from the transport sector.	Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular use of active travel modes (public transport, cycling or walking) to school and work above 2016 CSO Figures, and the securing of the modal shift targets as set out in Chapter 8 Transportation Strategy and in future LAPS.	CSO, Department of Transport (DoT), Wexford County Council	<p>Tables 8-1 and 8-6 in Chapter 8 Transportation Strategy set ambitious targets for travel to work and school.</p> <table><caption>Table 8-1 Travel to Work - County Aggregate (%)</caption><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Private car/motorbike</th><th>Public transport/ walking/cycling</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Baseline 2016</td><td>93.4</td><td>6.6</td></tr><tr><td>Target 2027</td><td>90</td><td>10</td></tr></tbody></table> <table><caption>Table 8-6 Travel to School - County Aggregate (%)</caption><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Private car/motorbike</th><th>Public transport/walking/cycling</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Baseline 2016</td><td>62.4</td><td>38.6</td></tr><tr><td>Target 2027</td><td>55</td><td>45</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>2022 Census data shows that 17.9% of the total number of people over age 5 at work, school or college travelled by foot, bicycle or public transport in 2022 compared to 19.9% in 2016. 69.5% travelled by motorcycle, scooter, car, van, lorry in 2022 compared to 71.7% in 2016 and 12.6% mainly worked from home or did not state transport mode in 2022 compared to 8.4% in 2016.<sup>17</sup></p> <p>In 2022, 9.5% travelled to work by foot, bicycle or public transport and 32% travelled to school or college by the same means. In 2016, 9.8% travelled to work by foot, bicycle or public transport and 37.1% travelled to school or college by the same means. This shows a decline in the proportion of people travelling to work and school or college by active travel and public transport means.</p> <p>The overall decrease in the level of active travel modes and public transport may in part be reflective of Covid 19 restrictions, changing trends towards working from home and online teaching methods. Nevertheless, the decreasing trends are not in accordance with the targets set out in Tables 8-1 and 8-6 in Chapter 8 Transportation Strategy which seek to increase the proportion of active travel and public transport modes from 2016 levels.</p> <p>The objectives in the CDP promote active travel and public transport modes and the integration of key lands uses to minimise the need to travel by private car. An Active Travel Unit has been set up in WCC and a number of active transport projects are progressing (see Chapter 8 of CE Report for further details).</p>	Year	Private car/motorbike	Public transport/ walking/cycling	Baseline 2016	93.4	6.6	Target 2027	90	10	Year	Private car/motorbike	Public transport/walking/cycling	Baseline 2016	62.4	38.6	Target 2027	55	45
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<sup>17</sup> Census Data Hub on Geohive Theme 11 (Commuting, Working from Home and Childcare) Table 1 Population aged 5 years and over by means of travel to work, school or college by Administrative County (Census 2022) available at <https://census.geohive.ie/> [accessed 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025]. Note the calculations used here are different to those used to calculate the baseline in 2016 as per Tables in Chapter 8 of the CDP.

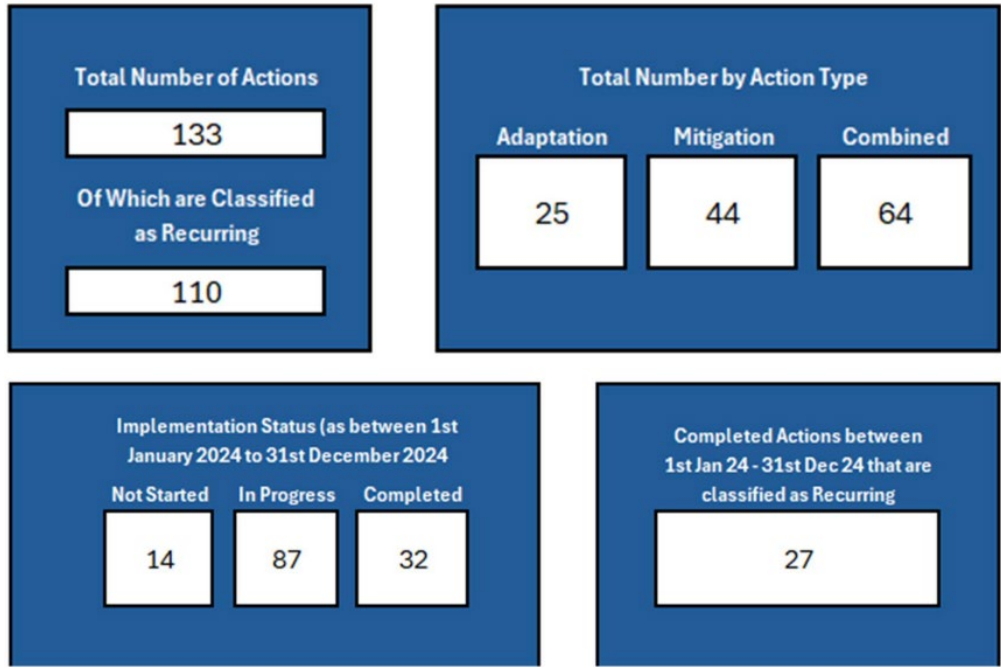
	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
				<b>Action: Continue to implement the Transportation objectives in the CDP and leverage available funding for active travel projects.</b>
		Increase in Electric vehicles ownership and usage.	CSO, Department of Transport (DoT), Wexford County Council	CSO Transport Hub shows that 'new electric vehicles licensed' peaked at 22,493 in 2023 before dropping to 17,191 in 2024. This compares to 15,462 in 2022 and 8,554 in 2021. <sup>18</sup> WCC owned fleet includes 13 EV and 2 electric forklifts.
		Increase in the number of electric charging points in the county, provided in both private and public development.	CSO, Department of Transport (DoT), Wexford County Council	This is being implemented through the development management process – a minimum 20% of spaces in new car parks are required to have electric vehicle charging points and provide culverts and infrastructure to “drop in” new charging points.
<b>Climate Change (CC)</b>	Extent of coastal erosion.	Implementation of a coastal erosion monitoring programme.	Wexford County Council, GSI	A coastal monitoring programme is in place and targeted at coastal erosion risk zones. Detailed monitoring (photo, drone, GPS surveying) of risk zones is carried out, particularly after severe weather events. This coastal monitoring programme will be supplemented by the OPW Coastal Monitoring Section which will carry out detailed surveys on extensive sections of coastline on a national scale.
		Adoption of County Wexford Coastal Strategy to include the provision of appropriate coastal defence works and measures to reduce the extent of, and control the rate of, coastal erosion, where possible.	Wexford County Council, GSI	WCC Environment Dept carried out inspections of the coastline in 2019 and 2020. National guidance was issued in October 2023 "Report of the Inter-Departmental Group on National Coastal Change Management Strategy." The OPW is setting up Coastal Change Management Plans for sections of the coast and it is prudent to await these plans before WCC sets up a countywide strategy. WCC liaise regularly with the OPW through the Rosslare CEFRS steering group.
	Extent of plan measures relating to climate adaptation and mitigation.	Incorporation of objectives relating to climate adaptation and mitigation in the Plan, future LAPs, the County Wexford Climate Adaptations Strategy and future Local Climate Action Plan.	Wexford County Council, GSI	The draft Wexford Town LAP is currently being prepared. The Plan and associated SEA and SFRA will have due regard to the CDP objectives relating to climate adaptation and mitigation as well as the actions contained in the WCC Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and national legislation and policy.
	Extent of renewable energy provision and the number of renewable energy development permitted.	That the equivalent of 100% of electricity consumption in the county will be generated from renewable energy sources by 2027.	Wexford County Council, 3 Counties Energy Authority (3CEA)	As at end June 2024, there were a total of 45 permissions granted for ground mounted solar farms in County Wexford with a total estimated output of 693MW and covering an area of 1,328.41 hectares. <sup>19</sup>  8/10/24 – The latest EirGrid and ESB energised and contracted generator lists show 177.82MW of solar connected to the grid and 297.55MW contracted (seven solar farms

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/hubs/p-transo/transporthub/sustainabilityandtransport/newelectricvehicleslicensed/> [accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025]

<sup>19</sup> This does not include smaller scale ground mounted solar developments at commercial sites such as European Refreshments and Monart Hotel as these are mainly to service the development on site.

	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
				<p>including one community solar farm) in County Wexford. One of these solar farms (Tullabeg Phase 2) was successful at the most recent RESS 4 auction (105MW).</p> <p>County Wexford is generally on trend to meet its RE target by 2027, if all permissions are implemented and subject to continuation/repowering of existing wind farms. See Chapter 19 Energy Strategy for further details.</p>
	Number of Nearly Zero Energy in new buildings (NZEB) permitted.	<p>Improvement in energy efficiency in new buildings.</p> <p>Increase in the energy efficiency of local authority housing stock.</p>	Wexford County Council, 3 Counties Energy Authority (3CEA)	<p>315 Local Authority housing units were retrofitted under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme between July 2022 and June 2024.</p> <p>In April 2024, WCC carbon emissions (thermal, transport and electricity) were 4.90ktCO<sub>2</sub> which is a 10.6% carbon emissions reduction compared to 2022 and a 31.1% carbon emission reduction on the 2016-2018 baseline (target is 50% by 2030). The Energy Efficiency Improvement was a 4.4% energy efficiency improvement on 2022 and a 42.1% improvement on the 2009 baseline (target is 51% by 2030). 11 Energy Audits and 13 Display Energy Certificates were also completed on WCC buildings since 2022.</p>
	Proportion of people reporting regular cycling/walking to school and work above the 2016 CSO Figure.	Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling/walking to school and work above 2016 Figures.	CSO, DoT	See under 'Air Quality' above.
	Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based cars compared to 2016 levels.	Reduction in the proportion of journeys made by residents in the county using private fossil fuel-based cars compared to 2016 levels.	CSO, DoT	Census data <sup>20</sup> shows that 39.4% of people over age 5 at work, school or college travelled by car (driver) in 2022 compared to 42% in 2016. This shows a decrease in car usage which may in part be due to an increase in remote working patterns. Information is not currently available on the proportion of these journeys made by fossil fuel-based cars.
	Number of Actions from County Wexford Adaptation Strategy 2019 -2025 implemented.	Incorporation of the County Wexford Adaptation Strategy 2019 -2025, and any future Local Climate Action Plan into future LAPs.	Wexford County Council, 3CEA	The Climate Action Plan Implementation Report 2024 outlines the progress made on implementing the 133 actions contained in the CAP, 38 of which relate to the Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone. A bespoke Climate Action Tracker was set up which allows staff members to update the progress on their own actions. A Climate Action Steering Group also meets monthly to progress the actions.

<sup>20</sup> CSO's Census Data Hub on Geohive Theme 11 (Commuting, Working from Home and Childcare) Table 1 Population aged 5 years and over by means of travel to work, school or college by Administrative County (Census 2022) available at <https://census.geohive.ie/> [accessed 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025]

	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
				 <p>Figure 1: Climate Action Data Overview submitted to the CCMA ECCE Committee</p>
<b>Material Assets (MA)</b>	Number of public water and wastewater facilities in the county delivered.	Provision of new infrastructure and the maintenance and upgrade of existing public water and wastewater infrastructure.	Wexford County Council, Irish Water	<p>See under 'Water Quality' above for wastewater treatment infrastructure delivered.</p> <p>Public water infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A €19 million upgrade of the Enniscorthy Regional Water Supply Scheme is underway together with ongoing work to upgrade aged areas of the water network including Pearse Road and St. Johns Villas.</li> <li>• Upgrade to Creagh Water Treatment Plant to benefit 7,000 customers in Gorey underway</li> <li>• Upgrade to the Newtown Water Treatment Plant underway and expected to be completed in 2025.</li> <li>• Work on the Kilmallock Bridge Water Treatment Plant upgrade to be complete by the end of 2024.</li> <li>• Mayglass (Fardystown) raw water project will increase supply capacity for South Wexford.</li> <li>• Gorey Regional Water Supply Contract 4 is complete and new water treatment plant at Ballyminaun is operational.</li> <li>• Clonroche was removed from the RAL in Q1 2024. Enniscorthy and Wexford town remain on the RAL- upgrade projects are underway for both of these supplies.</li> </ul>
		Increase in number of permitted developments connecting to public wastewater and/or public water infrastructure.	Wexford County Council, Irish Water	Awaiting information from Uisce Éireann.



	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
	Extent of infrastructure for active travel and public transport.	Provide new and upgrade existing infrastructure for active travel and public transport.	National Transport Authority, Public transport providers.	<p>Pathfinders Schemes - 3 phases planned for Wexford Town area: Newtown Road (Phase 1 – split in 3 phases from Maldron-AppleGreen, AppleGreen-Boggans, Hospital Junction-Wygram Place), Beechlawn/Clonard (Phase 2) and Rocksborough (Drinagh – Faythe, 3.6km total length) (Phase 3). Phase 1 (Maldron-AppleGreen) is completed with further sections due for completion in 2025, while Phase 2 and 3 will follow in 2025 &amp; 2026 respectively, subject to NTA resource allocations.</p> <p>Under the ‘Safe Routes to School’ Scheme three routes were completed in 2023 at Rosslare Strand, Adamstown and St. Aidan’s Enniscorthy. Three routes for completion in 2024 include Ramsgrange, Gorey Central School and Crossabeg NS. Three more are provisionally planned for 2025 at Killealy, Enniscorthy and Ballaghkeen.</p> <p>Phase 1 (6km) of the South East Greenway was completed from New Ross to Glenmore and Phase 2 (5.5km) from Ferrybank to Curraghmore is underway. The Wexford to Rosslare Greenway (including the section to Rosslare Harbour) is at route selection stage and it is anticipated the preferred route will be identified in Q1 2025.</p> <p>See Chapter 8 Transportation Strategy of CE Report for further details on active travel.</p>
	Extent of new Information technology infrastructure and proportion of the county with access to broadband infrastructure.	To implement the National Broadband Plan in the County	National Broadband Ireland	NBI continue to roll out broadband infrastructure. The NBP County Summary Stats <sup>21</sup> show 81% rollout (18,752 premises) for County Wexford in its Intervention Area with 35% (6,550 premises) uptake in NBP connection. There are also 24 remote/co-working hubs in County Wexford identified on the National Hub Network Register <sup>22</sup> (April 2025).
<b>Cultural Heritage (CH)</b>	Number of recorded features lost.	No loss of features of architectural or archaeological importance.	Wexford County Council, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAGSM).	No loss of features recorded.
	Number of grants awarded	To maximise conservation of protected structures, including that supported by grant aid.	Wexford County Council, DTCAGSM	See Chapter 13 Heritage and Conservation regarding grant allocation.
	Number of WCC plans and projects which address cultural heritage	<p>Adoption, and implementation of a County Heritage Plan.</p> <p>Undertake further cultural heritage initiatives.</p>	Wexford County Council	<p>A County Heritage Plan has not commenced to date but is intended to be prepared in 2025.</p> <p>See Chapter 13 Heritage and Conservation for cultural heritage initiatives.</p>

<sup>21</sup> [NBP County Summary Stats](#)

<sup>22</sup> [National Hub Network](#)

	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Monitoring
<b>Landscape &amp; Visual (LV)</b>	Impacts of development on the County's Coastal, River Valley, Upland and Distinctive landscapes.	No diminution in the overall Coastal, River Valley, Upland and Distinctive landscapes.	Wexford County Council	This is being managed through the development management process. No adverse impacts recorded.
	Number of WCC plans and projects which address landscape issues.	Implement Plan landscape objectives including landscape characterisation and sensitivity analysis in the preparation of future LAPs.	Wexford County Council	A detailed landscape analysis is being carried out as part of the preparation of the Urban Design Strategy for the Wexford Urban Area Plan.