Comhairle Contae Loch Garman
Wexford County Council

Wexford County Council

Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

CLIMATE ACTION WEXFORD

OUR COUNTY. OUR OPPORTUNITY. OUR FUTURE

Swan at Johnstown Castle (Source: Celtic Routes)

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Climate Action Plan

2024-2029

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Foreword

Climate change is the defining issue of our time and is happening now. Ireland is at the beginning of a long and challenging process of transitioning to a low-carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.

The people of County Wexford have experienced first-hand the increase in extreme weather events, coastal flooding and coastal erosion, which are arising from the changes in our climate.

Local Authorities are at the forefront in responding to the consequences of extreme weather and climate change impacts. The Climate Action Plan process is the first time that local authorities have been requested to place a focus on not just adapting to these changes, but also strongly focusing on mitigating any further impacts to our climate through our activities as a public sector organisation. Wexford County Council must take a leading role in supporting the urgent transition to a low-carbon society at a County level.

The Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 seeks to further embed climate action across all our functions and service delivery areas. It means the Council must put in place measures to continue to adapt and tackle the impacts of climate change on our county and to reduce our own direct emissions by 51% by 2030, in line with National policy. As part of this work, we have an obligation to strongly enhance our biodiversity and protect our natural environment.

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment Strategic Policy Committee together with the members of Wexford County Council who have engaged positively with this process. I also wish to acknowledge the work undertaken by the Executive team in the Environment & Climate Change Directorate, who have led the development of the plan.

John Fleming
Cathaoirleach

Foreword

Climate change is one of the most critical challenges facing the world today. The changes occurring because of the rise in global temperatures, are now considered ‘irreversible’ and devastation from the consequences of extreme weather events is being experienced in every region of the world. Ireland’s climate is changing in line with global trends and the impacts of these changes will be felt by every community, impacting on human and natural systems and incurring huge costs to our economy and society.

This Climate Action Plan provides a fundamental tool for Wexford County Council to address the challenges and develop innovative and sustainable solutions to reduce our own emissions and enhance our resilience to a changing climate.

The huge efforts needed to tackle climate change will require every person and every organisation to play their part.

Wexford County Council is committed to being a frontrunner in effecting change in terms of mitigation and adaptation. This is demonstrated in the lead role Wexford County Council has taken in transitioning to low carbon, energy efficient near Zero Energy Build housing projects.

The Council is well placed to influence, facilitate and advocate local climate action having influence in areas of housing, transport, land use planning, protection of environment, community development as well as sustainable economic development.

I wish to express appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the preparation of this Climate Action Plan.

Tom Enright
Chief Executive

Tintern Abbey, Ring of Hook (Celtic Routes)

Executive Summary

Wexford County Council has prepared this Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 in line with 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 local government sector will play a key part in this transition, through local, place-based climate action.

The Plan has been prepared by Wexford County Council in partnership with the Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) together with the South East Energy Agency (SEEA) and with the guidance of the Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment Strategic Policy Committee and the Elected Members of Wexford County Council.

The Plan builds on Wexford County Council's current Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and ongoing work by the Council's Climate Action Steering Group in conjunction with the South East Energy Agency. During this time, Wexford County Council has achieved ISO 50001 Energy Management Standard. We delivered improvements in energy efficiency across the organisation (40% efficiency achieved over the 2009 baseline); developed an active monitoring and assessment programme of the County coastline and commenced the decarbonisation of the Local Authority owned fleet, with 5% of vehicles now replaced with EVs. A significant public lighting efficiency programme is also approaching completion by the Council, which has resulted in an estimated 60 % increase in energy efficiency. In addition, the Council has supported the establishment of twenty-five Sustainable Energy Communities across the County, who are taking a lead on climate action at community level.

As part of the development of this Plan, Wexford County Council has proposed a Decarbonisation Zone (Enniscorthy Urban Area) within the County to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures in a specifically defined area.

In preparing this plan, Wexford County Council has undertaken a Climate Change Risk Assessment and developed a Baseline Emissions Inventory for the County.

The risk assessment identified the key impacts that climate change is having on the County and is likely to have into the future. The Baseline Emission Inventory provides an estimate on greenhouse gas emissions for the County and for the Council's own activities. A similar greenhouse gas Baseline Emission Inventory estimate has also been developed for the Decarbonisation Zone, as well as for the Council's own activities within that zone. These assessments have provided the evidence base for the development of place-based, climate actions across the County.

The core targets of Wexford County Council's Climate Action Plan are:

- 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030

- 50% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030

In addition, the Plan includes a range of climate adaptation actions, aimed at improving the resilience of the County to the impacts of climate change as well as a range of mitigation actions, to reduce future impact on the climate. These are presented across 5 core Action Areas:

- Governance and Leadership
- Built Environment and Transport
- Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure
- Communities, Resilience and Transition
- Sustainability and Resource Management

The actions listed include those for which the Council is fully accountable across its own buildings, operations, services, and functions; as well as actions for which the Council will influence, co-ordinate, facilitate and advocate on for climate action.

Key Strategic Goal D is focused on mobilising Climate Action in local communities, enhancing community resilience to climate change and promoting a Just Transition for the County. This Goal and the actions contained within reflect the importance for all people and communities across County Wexford to be part of the Climate Action Plan.

Key actions include the roll out of Active Travel initiatives through the Council's Active Travel Programme, the continued improvement in energy efficiencies of the Council's building stock, increasing community awareness and leadership in the Decarbonisation Zone and commencing the administration of the new targeted Community Climate Action Fund for the County. Innovative projects such as increasing micro-generation and examining the feasibility of a district heating scheme will also be progressed during the lifetime of the Plan. The Councils Housing section will continue to ramp up the delivery of energy efficiency upgrades to at least 20% of the Council's social housing stock. In terms of leadership, a cross-departmental Climate Action Steering Group is already established within the local authority, led at Executive Management level who, together with a dedicated Climate Action Team, will oversee the implementation of the Plan under the Housing, Community, Libraries, Arts, Environment & Climate Change and Emergency Management Directorate. This team will monitor the implementation of actions and coordinate the reporting and evaluation of the Plan to the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee as required with regular progress reports also being submitted to full Council and published on the Councils website. It is expected that the Plan will be revised on a five-year cycle.

The overall ambition of Wexford County Council in presenting the Climate Action Plan is to lead and support, at a local level, the transition of County Wexford to a climate resilient, biodiversity-rich, and environmentally sustainable county, by reducing and responding to the impacts of future climate change-related events over the coming years.

CONTENTS

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.

Mission

Our mission is to transition County Wexford to a Climate Resilient, Biodiversity Rich, Environmentally Sustainable and Climate Neutral Economy.

Duncannon EIP Clover (Wexford County Council)

1 Policy and Context

1.1 Introduction

Child Crab Fishing Fethard (Celtic Routes)

Wexford County Council has prepared this Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, to support the delivery of a low carbon and climate resilient County, by implementing best practice in climate action, at a local level. The Plan is aligned with 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 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, frames Ireland's legally binding climate ambition "to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51% by 2030". Placing the country on a trajectory to achieving climate neutrality by the end of 2050.

The Climate (Amendment) Act 2021 specifically requires all local authorities in Ireland to prepare and make a Climate Action Plan, in consideration of wider national climate and energy targets, addressing both mitigation and adaptation measures.

Climate Change Mitigation relates to changing how we live, move, consume and

manufacture, so as to reduce and/or eliminate the production of harmful greenhouse gases, it also includes how we best use our land.

Climate Change Adaptation refers to dealing with the impacts of climate change and involves taking practical actions to manage risks, protect communities and strengthen the resilience of the economy (e.g. flooding, sea level rise etc).

In preparing the Plan, Wexford County Council has taken account of relevant climate legislation and policy; undertaken a climate change risk assessment and established a greenhouse gas emissions baseline assessment at a county level. More importantly, the plan commits to delivering a range of actions across 5 strategic areas, which have been designed to help Wexford County Council achieve the required climate targets and to facilitate the move towards a more environmentally sustainable County Wexford.

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

- actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.
- assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels.
- Identify and deliver a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to function as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures.

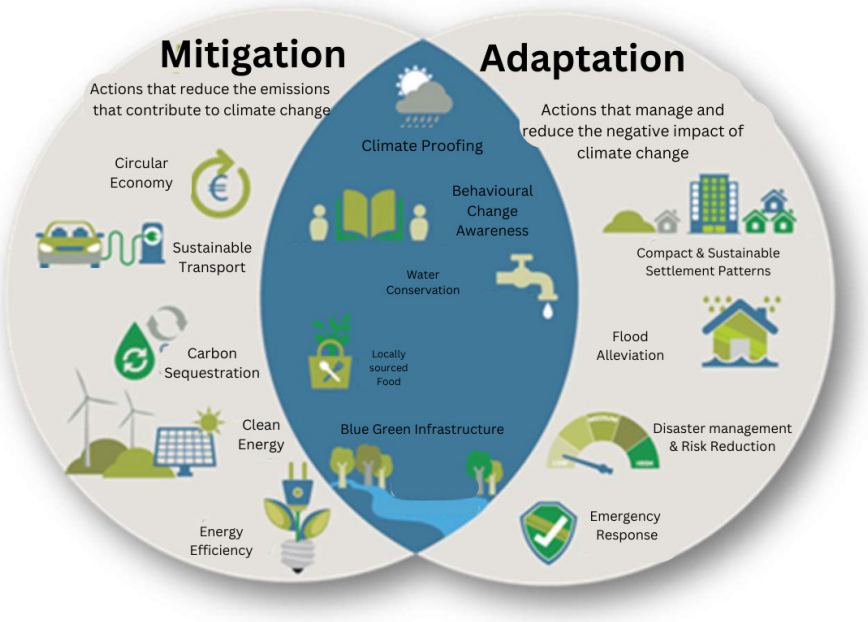


Figure 1.1: Illustration of climate mitigation and adaptation measures and where they overlap

Wexford County Council maintains a strong commitment to mainstreaming climate action across its own operations and functions, whilst also demonstrating a leadership role on

implementing climate action, at a local level. The Plan demonstrates a coherent approach to climate action across the administrative and political structure of Wexford County Council. The Plan was subject to approval by the Elected Members, following public consultation and engagement.

1.2 Scope of the Wexford Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan specifically sets out where Wexford County Council is responsible for enhancing climate resilience, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions across its own assets, services and infrastructure. These are areas that the local authority has full accountability for under the Climate Action Plan. In addition however, Wexford County Council must also demonstrate in the plan a broader role of influencing, advocating and facilitating other sectors, to meet their own climate targets and ambitions. This is necessary to ensure that the environmental, social and economic benefits that come with climate action can be fully realised.

The scope of the Local Authority in terms of Climate Action is captured in Figure 1.2.

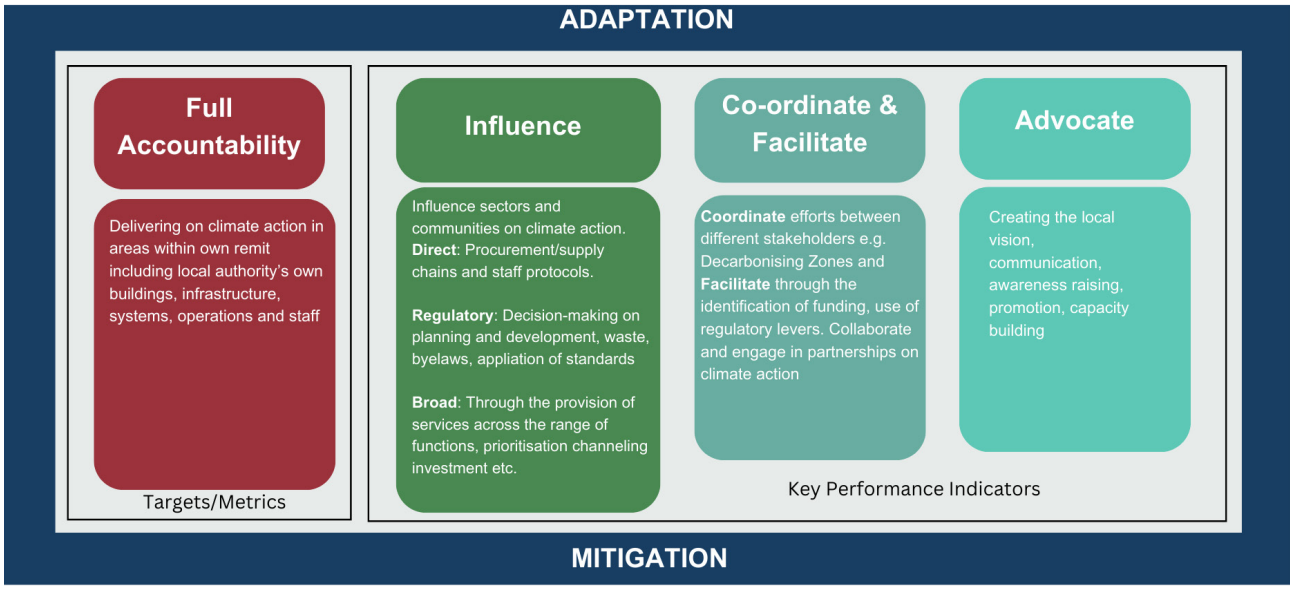


Figure 1.2 Illustrates the scope of the local authority's responsibility on Climate Action (Source: Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, 2023)

1.3 Overview of climate change, its significance, impacts and risks for Ireland (observed and projected)

Climate change is increasingly understood to be the most critical, long-term global challenge of our time and its impacts continue to be felt both worldwide and at home. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC's) Working Group Sixth Assessment Report, confirms overwhelming evidence that the climate has changed since the pre-

industrial era and that human activities, through greenhouse gas emissions, are the principal cause of that change. It states the unequivocal cause of global warming has been human activities, with global surface temperatures reaching 1.1°C above 1850-1900 averages, in the 2011-2020 period.

Ireland is in line with global climate change in both temperature and precipitation (rainfall). Met Éireann stated that 2022 was 'the warmest year on record'. Ireland's temperature was recorded as above the long-term average for the 12th consecutive year. Furthermore, 2022 saw record breaking temperatures observed in Ireland during the summer, recording the second highest temperature ever recorded in Ireland at 33°C. This is reiterated in the precipitation observations from 2022, where rainfall was recorded as below the long-term average at most stations. There was variability in rainfall throughout 2022, with extremes being felt in each of the seasons, resulting in a drier Summer and Spring and a wetter Autumn and Winter. Global mean sea level increased by 20 cm between 1901 and 2018. The trend in global mean sea level rise has been consistently rising since 1901. Ireland has so far seen a similar rise in sea level with an average of 2-3 mm per year. A warming climate has caused a rise in sea level, through the loss of sea ice and thermal expansion (the increase in the volume of water due to heating) resulting from the warming ocean.

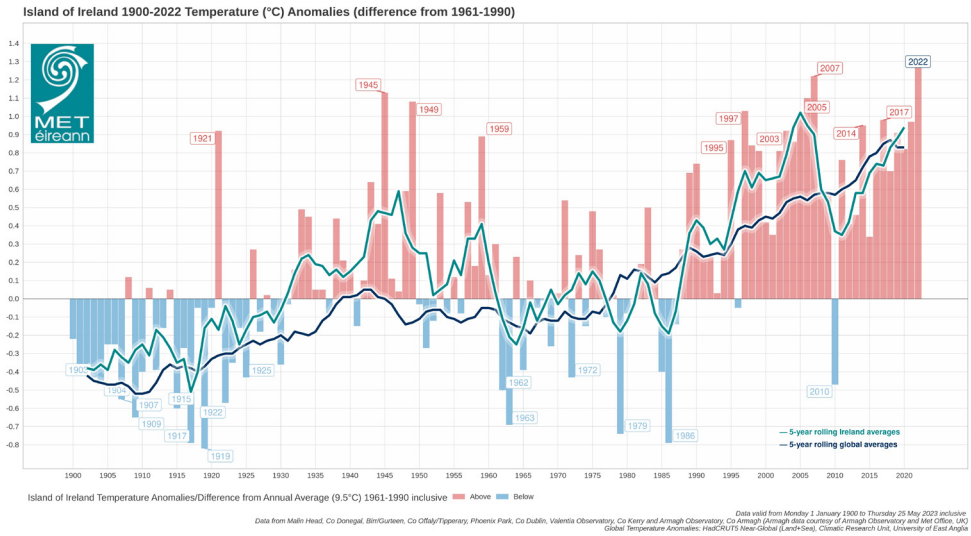


Figure 1.3: Island of Ireland 1900-2022 Temperature (°C) Anomalies (difference from 1961-1990) (Source: Met Éireann)

Ireland has suffered from adverse climate impacts already and recent extreme weather events have highlighted the vulnerability of individuals, businesses, communities, and infrastructure to climate change, emphasising the need for urgency on climate action across all of society.

Extreme weather events such as Storm Arwen and Storm Barra (2021) left 59,000 homes and businesses without power. The adverse impacts of climate change can often compound social, environmental, and economic challenges. This can increase vulnerability and sensitivity to a changing climate and climate extremes.

Based on observed changes in climate and its impacts, Met Éireann, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other climate scientists, are able to make robust projections on future climate patterns in Ireland and globally. The Environmental Protection Agency , Marine Institute and Met Éireann published The Status of Ireland's Climate Report in July 2021.

CASE STUDY 1:

Marram Grass and Dune Restoration

Several County Wexford beach communities have come together to restore the natural ecology of the coastline. The importance of dunes and the grasses that support them in protecting our coastline from flooding, storm damage and erosion has become ever more evident in recent years.

Planting marram community dune protection Curracloe 2021

Figure 1.4 Marram Grass Planting

Marram grass, a familiar native plant that grows in Irish sands, has rhizomes that grow metres long and knit together with roots and other Marram rhizomes to from a strong matrix that holds together the loose light sands of our dunes. This is a sustainable, cost effective, landscape preserving and long-term solution to coastal erosion.

With the help of the County Council, Clean Coasts Ireland and other organisations, there have been various restoration and planting projects along the County Wexford Coast including at Tacumshane, Morriscastle, Curracloe and Rosslare Strand.

Future climate projections for Ireland can be summarised as follows:

- Temperatures are increasing and are expected to continue to increase across all seasons.
- Significant reductions in levels of average precipitation (rainfall) are expected in spring and summer, whilst projections indicate the increased occurrence of extreme precipitation events, particularly during winter.
- Projections show little change in average wind speed and direction. The frequency of extreme wind conditions is expected to increase, particularly during winter.
- Based on current trends, Ireland will see an increase in sea level rise, similar to

what has been experienced to date. Ireland is extremely vulnerable to sea level rise, due to its expansive coastline and the large settlement pattern along our coastline.

- Increases in the frequency of fluvial (river) and pluvial (surface water) flooding.
- Increases in the frequency and intensity of coastal flooding and erosion.
- Increases in the frequency and intensity of summer heat waves, extreme temperatures, and drought.
- Reductions in the frequency of frost and snowfall.
- An increase in the duration of the growing season (phenological cycle).

Ireland's climate has changed relative to the 1900's, it has undoubtedly warmed along with global temperatures, bringing about an array of impacts that are associated with a warmer climate and more extreme weather events.

1.4 Summary of Climate Policy Context

Climate action is given impetus by the scientific evidence that supports the findings of human influence on climate change together with a range of ambitious policy frameworks and legally binding international commitments to garner effective responses within countries. Consequently, this Climate Action Plan is set within a broader context of international, European Union, national and sectoral climate policy. This is represented in Figure 1.5 below.

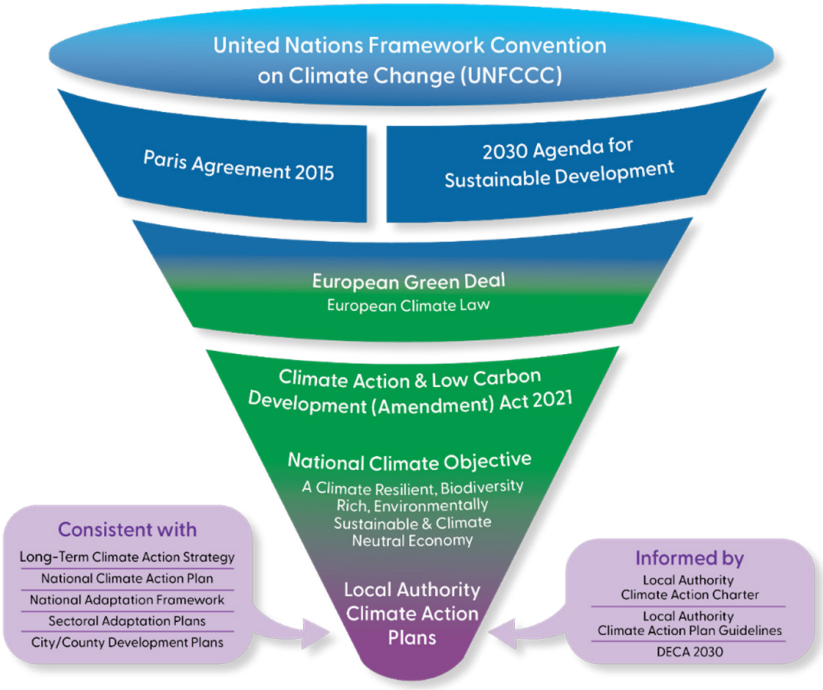


Fig:1.5 Hierarchy of Climate Action Policy.

1.4.1 International Climate Change Policy

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

These efforts led to the signing of the Paris Agreement 2015 at the Conference of the Parties 21 (COP21). The Paris Agreement 2015 is a legally binding international treaty on climate change which was signed by all 196 member countries, including Ireland, and entered into force on 4th November 2016. Through two clearly defined goals, the Paris Agreement strives for progressive and ambitious climate action over time to avoid dangerous climate change by:

i. Holding global average temperature increases to well below 20C and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.50C above pre-industrial levels; and

ii. Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience.

Figure 1.6: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Source: UN Sustainable Development)

Another International agreement closely linked with the Paris Agreement is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which was adopted by UN Member States in September 2015. At the Agenda's core are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) . These goals aim to "end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects

of everyone, everywhere." The 17 SDGs contain 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. In 2019, World leaders called for a 'decade of action' in order to achieve the Goals within this timeframe. The SDGs are also addressed in Section 6 of this Plan.

As part of Paris Agreement commitments, the European Commission (December 2019) announced the European Green Deal, aimed at making Europe the first climate neutral continent. The Deal seeks to achieve no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, to decouple economic growth from resource use, and to leave no one behind. The EU introduced a set of proposals to align the EUs climate, taxation, energy, and transport policies to support achieving this aim. The European Climate Law made these targets legally binding, which also includes achieving a reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions of at least 55% by 2030.

1.4.2 Climate Change Policy in Ireland

Climate change policy in Ireland now reflects the ambition of the EU and what is required to confront the challenges of climate change. Working towards the National Climate Objective, the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021 promotes a sustainable economy and society, where greenhouse gas emissions are balanced, reduced or removed. Through progressive economy-wide carbon budgets, sectoral ceilings, a suite of strategies devised to promote a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures, as well as robust oversight and reporting arrangements, climate policy is working to scale up efforts across all of society and deliver a step change on ambitious and transformative climate action to 2030 and beyond to 2050.

Seal swimming in Kilmore Harbour (Celtic Routes)

The Climate Action Plan 2023, launched on 21st December 2022, is the second annual update to the states' Climate Action Plan 2019. It is the first to be prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the first plan, since the introduction of economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emission ceilings (introduced in 2022). Climate Action Plan 2023 sets out a roadmap to 2025 towards taking decisive action to halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero, no later than by the end of 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government.

National sectoral emissions ceilings are set out in the National Climate Action Plan (based on overall target of 51% reduction by 2030) and were published on 22 July 2018. The ceilings set maximum limits on GHG emissions for each sector of the Irish economy to the end of 2030. Sectoral emissions ceilings have been set for the electricity, transport, buildings, industry and agriculture sectors, delivering on a key Programme for Government commitment. This will involve a big transformation for all parts of society and all organisations.

Sector	Reduction
Electricity	75%
Transport	50%
Buildings (Commercial and Public)	45%
Buildings (Residential)	40%
Industry	35%
Agriculture	25%
Other	50%

Table 1.1: National Sectoral Emissions Reductions Targets 2030 (National Climate Action Plan, 2023)

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

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

Communications Networks, Flood Risk Management, Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure and Health. Ireland's current Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions (published in 2023) sets out indicative pathways, beyond 2030, towards achieving carbon neutrality for Ireland by 2050. The Strategy builds upon the decarbonisation pathways set by the carbon budgets, sectoral emissions ceilings and the national Climate Action Plan, to ensure coherent and effective climate policy. It is underpinned by analysis of transition options across each key sector of the economy and provides a crucial link between Ireland's 2030 climate targets and the long-term goal set by Ireland's National Climate Objective and the European Climate Law.

Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 (DECA 2030) is the local government strategy on climate action published in April 2021. The strategy represents an overarching sectoral commitment to ensuring a coherent approach to climate action across the administrative and political structures of all 31 local authorities. At a sectoral level the strategy communicates an intent towards leadership, engaging the local authority network in effective climate action. The strategy is a stated roadmap for local authorities in delivering the required decarbonisation and adaptation responses to climate change.

Wexford County Council Staff getting to work during Storm Emma (Wexford County Council)

The Local Authority Climate Action Charter, signed by Wexford County Council in October 2019, represents a commitment to scale up efforts and play a key role locally and nationally in delivering effective climate action. It tasks all local authorities with providing robust leadership in advancing climate action at regional and local levels, whilst adhering

to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 13 Climate Action, as well as reducing emissions from their own operations and to collaborate and partner with local enterprise, community groups, citizens as well as public, private, and educational sectors on climate action initiatives.

Hook Lighthouse (Celtic Routes)

1.4.3 Wexford County Council Climate Action Planning

The Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan strengthens the links between national and international climate policy and the delivery of effective climate action at local and community levels, through place-based climate action. The intrinsic value of the climate action plan is that it plays a significant role in reinforcing commitment by the local government sector to lead on climate action at local and national levels, as reflected in the local government strategy Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030. Throughout its preparation and implementation, the Council's Climate Action Plan offers an opportunity to bring together critical stakeholders across communities and businesses to build a vision for a climate neutral future.

Wexford County Council and other local authorities across Ireland, are already well positioned at the forefront of climate action in Ireland. Wexford County Council plays a significant role in terms of delivering adaptation and mitigation measures at local and community levels. We are entrusted to work through our regulatory and strategic functions to operationalise the ambitious national climate targets and policy at local levels, to assist

in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.

The Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan is part of longer-term efforts that require a sustained and planned response to support the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels. This plan will form the basis of current Wexford County Council climate policy, following on from the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. It will clearly lay out the actions to be taken by the Council to meet its obligations in terms of reducing carbon emissions, while showing potential pathways for local business, industry, agriculture, and voluntary bodies to reduce their footprint in building a cleaner county for all.

This Climate Action Plan provides a mechanism for bringing together both adaptation and mitigation actions to help drive positive climate action and outcomes across the local authority and its administrative area. The framework of climate actions set within the plan, configures the arrangement of climate actions within a defined structure that ensures alignment between on the ground actions and the high-level vision that the plan aspires to deliver.

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

1.5 Structure of the Climate Action Plan

This Climate Action Plan has considered international and national climate change policy and legislation as well as the most up-to-date knowledge on current levels of climate change as well as its impacts and projections for the future.

The Climate Action Plan is presented under four sections:

- Firstly, the evidence base for County Wexford and Wexford County Council is presented, including climate change risks and emissions baseline profile.
- Secondly, the Plan outlines its framework for climate action including the Plan Vision, Mission, Strategic Goals, Objectives and Actions.
- The third part focuses on Wexford County Council Decarbonising Zone (DZ), Enniscorthy Urban Area including the Vision for the Decarbonisation Zone and Decarbonisation Zone Actions.
- The final Part of this Plan sets out the Council's approach to implementing actions, measuring progress and how the Council will report on actions over the lifetime of the Plan.

1.6 Preparation of the Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan

Ministerial Request

On February 24th, 2023, a request was received by Wexford County Council, from Minister for Transport and the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, to commence the statutory plan making process to develop and adopt the Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan within 12 months.

Advanced Planning

Stage 1 – Initiation - Build the Evidence Base

This Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 (CAP) has been developed in accordance with the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines and has taken account of international and national climate change policy and legislation.

This Climate Action Plan was developed in a number of phases. A programme plan was developed which included key tasks to be completed at each stage of advanced planning and the statutory plan making phases. A Climate Action Team (CAT) within the Environment Section of Wexford County Council was established in March 2023. The CAT engaged with the Climate Action Steering Group and across all service areas in the identification of climate actions. Suggested actions were also sought from external stakeholders and support was procured to undertake the following for the CAP:

- County Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)
- County Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI)
- Decarbonising Zone BEI for Enniscorthy Urban Area
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Appropriate Assessments (AA).

Strategic Environmental Assessment & Appropriate Assessments

The Climate Action Plan was required to be assessed under specific environmental legislation. Recommendations and mitigation measures made through the assessment processes outlined below are incorporated into this Plan and will be undertaken as part of implementation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are considered before such decisions are made. Strategic Environmental

Assessment (SEA) is the term which has been given to the environmental assessment of plans and programmes, which help determine the nature and location of individual projects taking place. Strategic Environmental Assessment is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan or programme, to ensure that these effects are adequately addressed at the earliest stages of decision-making, in tandem with economic, social and other considerations.

Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European sites which form the Natura 2000 Network.

Appropriate Assessment is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation. Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment process was integrated into the preparation of Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 through:

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004 as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011)
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act (as amended)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Environmental Reports are contained as separate documents accompanying the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement began in April 2023, with a briefing to the Executive Management Team, the Elected Members of the Council, the management team, along with a presentation to the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee outlining the requirement to develop the Climate Action Plan, the tasks and

timelines involved.

The Climate Action Team engaged with the Senior Management Team and each Department, through meetings and workshops, to develop actions for the Plan.

The Climate Action team ran a climate action event on June 1st in County Hall. Wexford to raise awareness of possible climate actions and the event featured 21 speakers across four theme and was very well attended. Several pre-consultation stakeholder engagement events took place through May to July 2024 and more detail on this pre-consultation stakeholder engagement is contained as a separate document accompanying the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

Mary Farrell SPC Chair, Leonard Kelly Councillor, Esteemed Speakers and Council Staff at the Climate Action Day at County Hall June 1st 2023

Stage 2 - 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 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee 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 plan was approved by the Elected Members to go for public consultation from October 10th to November 21st 2023.

Wexford Climate Action Plan 2023 and Subsidiary Documents

Stage 3 - Completion Stage - Production of a Chief Executive Report on submissions received and incorporation of amendments to the Plan (as appropriate) and propose the adoption of Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan on February 12th, 2024.

Final Publication – Deadline – February 12th to March12th 2024.

Curraghmore River EIP Project (Wexford County Council)

CASE STUDY 2:

BioGas Heating System for Wexford Fire Station

Pictured BioGas installation, gas storage cylinders and a decompression unit in secure compound

Project Brief: 120kw BioGas boiler installed and commissioned at Wexford fire station with 60% grant aid from the EU RegEnergy Fund.

This installation replaced the Oil and LPG heating systems in Wexford Fire Station with a BioGas installation. This scheme was further funded by grant aid from SEAI, mitigating WCC's exposure to rising costs of fossil fuel, reducing the organisations Green House Gas emissions, and supporting local industry through the purchase of BioGas, locally sourced in Waterford.

Procurement was carried out by the Southeast Energy Agency (SEEA). This fuel source has potential for several more Wexford County Council installations, further reducing WCC's greenhouse gases and helping to achieve the organisations energy efficiency targets to reduce greenhouse gases by 51% and energy by 50% by 2030. This has enabled WCC to be an exemplar on implementation of Green Procurement and supports an increased focus on climate change with emerging and developing Green Technologies, increasing renewable energy use and supporting security of fuel supply.

This facilitates WCC compliance with the Energy Efficiency Directive and supports WCC's achievement of ISO 50001 Energy Management Standard. Based on the data submitted to SEAI (at application stage), there has been a 17% decrease in energy and 58% decrease in CO_2 emissions.

Bee hotel outside County Hall, Carricklawn (Wexford County Council)

2 Regional and Local Context

Climate Action Regional Office

2.1 Supporting Role of Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO)

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) were established in 2018 by the local government sector and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), recognising the need to provide for a coordinated approach on climate action across the local government system.

The four Climate Action Regional Offices are mandated to co-ordinate engagement across the varying levels of government, to promote the sharing of knowledge and ideas, facilitate effective collaboration on actions and help build on existing experience and expertise in the area of climate change and climate action. The composition of the four Climate Action Regions has been determined by the geographical and topographical characteristics, vulnerabilities and shared climate risks experienced across local authority areas.

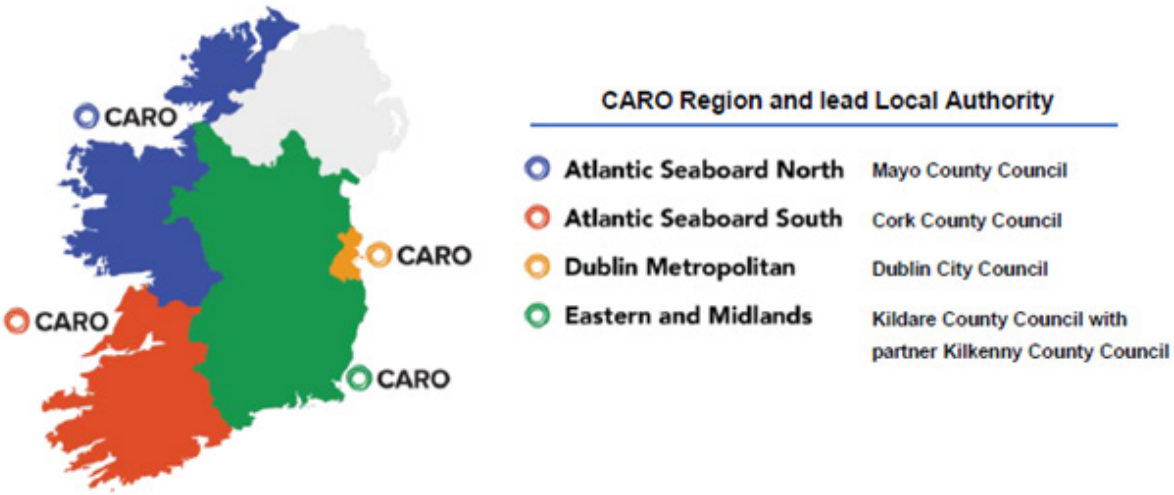


Figure 2.1: Map of the Four Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) areas

County Wexford is located in the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Region and is one of 17 local authorities in this region. It is the largest of the four Climate Action Regions in Ireland. The region, exclusive of the Dublin Metropolitan Area, occupies the eastern, central and southeast aspects of the country. The climate risks associated with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action region include Fluvial flooding, Pluvial flooding, Coastal Flooding and Groundwater flooding.

OVERVIEW OF COUNTY WEXFORD

POPULATION
163,919

3,700 km
ROAD NETWORK
Main Roads M11/N11 N25 N80

260 km
OF COASTLINE

2 PORTS
ROSSLARE EUROPORT
& NEW ROSS

70 BEACHES
6 BLUE FLAG BEACHES
10 GREEN COAST AWARD
BEACHES

2 BLUE FLAG MARINAS

2 MAIN RIVERS
RIVER BARROW 192KM
IRELANDS SECOND LONGEST
RIVER SLANEY 118KM

Wexford County in Context

2.2 Location & Size

County Wexford is located in the south-east corner of Ireland. It is a maritime county, bounded by the sea on two sides—on the south by the Atlantic Ocean and on the east by St. George's Channel and the Irish Sea, with a coastline that extends to approximately 260 km. The county has a land area of approximately 236,527ha. Under the County Development Plan (2022-28), key towns in the county include Wexford and Gorey, while large towns include Enniscorthy and New Ross. There are five municipal districts serving the county.

2.3 Population

The population of County Wexford, according to the 2022 census, is 163,919 an increase of 9.3% on the figures recorded in the 2016 census. It is the 13th most populated county in the country and the fifth most populated in the Southern Region. There is a high level of dependency within the county with under eighteen's making up 27.5% of the county's population.

2.4 Housing

The census 2022 shows that over 70% of households in Wexford owned their own home with a further 24% renting. This includes 9% rented from Wexford County Council.

Despite the challenges in house construction, Census 2022 ranks County Wexford at the upper half of the regional and national league tables for housing completions between 2016 and 2022. The county ranks second regionally and tenth nationally.

Droichead Carley, Enniscorthy, all new social housing built to Nearly Zero Energy Build standard.

2.5 Employment

There were 77,071 people (aged 15 and over) employed in Wexford according to the 2022 census. This is an increase of 11% from 2016 census.

Private enterprise provides significantly above national average levels of employment across the county (especially smaller businesses). According to 2022 Central Statistics Office (general employment stats) 60% of employment in the County was from businesses with less than 50 employees.

The county has a reliance on locally traded services, with tourism and hospitality, retail, and construction accounting for a large proportion of employment. Invest Wexford reports that 19 multinational companies such as BNY Mellon, Zurich, and Danone operate from within the county). The development of a campus of South East Technological University is essential for attracting and retaining foreign direct investment. A number of indigenous companies who have significant export value such as Done Deal and Slaney Foods are also based in County Wexford. Key public sector employers include Wexford County Council, Wexford General Hospital, Teagsc, MARA, Department of Agriculture, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, South East Technological University and the Environmental Protection Agency.

2.6 Education

County Wexford is home to a campus of the South East Technological University (SETU) based in Wexford town. Under the university strategic plan, there is a commitment to investing in a new campus development in the Wexford town area. Georgia Southern University, Georgia State, USA has also announced plans to invest in a campus in Wexford Town to facilitate overseas student placements.

2.7 Transport

The county is well-served by key infrastructure such as the M11 and N25, the Rosslare Europort, New Ross Port and five Iarnród Éireann stations (including Gorey, Enniscorthy, and Wexford).

2.7.1 Roads & Vehicles

The total road network in County Wexford consists of over 3700km comprising 47km motorway and 182km national roads. The remaining network consists of both regional and local roads of approximately 3500km.

There are 2 major road schemes under development in County Wexford. Currently at the pre-construction phase, they are the N11/M11 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour and the N25 Rosslare Europort Access road.

Between 2020 and 2021, the number of new electric vehicles sold in County Wexford grew by 157% from 142 to 365 EVs. As of November 2022, there are 146 Electric Vehicle charging points with another 594 granted permissions in County Wexford. Society of Irish Motor Industry ranks the county second in the region for currently installed points and fourth for granted permissions.

In terms of commuting travel modes, in Census 2016, 71% of the county's commuters were either the driver or a passenger in a car or van. Twenty percent used sustainable forms of transport to commute, and approximately 5% worked primarily from home.

Wexford County Council operates a fleet of 288 vehicles consisting of Light Goods Vehicles, Heavy Goods Vehicles and specialised plant & machinery which is all owned and managed from the centralised Machinery Yard Depot on the Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy. The first 4 Electric commercial vans were introduced into the Machinery Yard fleet in 2019. In total, Wexford County Council currently has a fleet of 11 Electric vans in the organisation and 3 Electric Forklifts operating in Civic Amenity Sites across the county.

Some of the County Council's Electric Fleet (Wexford County Council)

2.7.2 Rail

The Rosslare – Dublin rail line is currently the only operating rail route in the County. While the Rosslare to Waterford rail line is not currently in use, the All-Island Strategic Rail Review has identified this rail line as significant in connecting Rosslare Europort to the rest of the southern region.

2.7.3 Bus and Active Travel

There are extensive bus services on the Wexford, Enniscorthy and Gorey to Dublin/Dublin airport route, and less frequent inter-county services on other routes, including services to/ from New Ross and Bunclody and serving Waterford, Kilkenny and Carlow. Services are provided by both public and private operators.

Bus Éireann, Wexford Bus and Local Link also provide services in rural areas of the county and Wexford Bus provides a town service in Wexford Town.

A national funding programme is being rolled out to facilitate the development of active travel cycling and walking infrastructure across the county.

2.7.4 Ports

Rosslare Europort and Rosslare Harbour Lagoon (Tony Mullen)

There are two principal ports in the county: Rosslare Europort and New Ross Port. Rosslare Europort is a Tier 2 port, and is a strategic national, regional and county asset. The role of the port is to facilitate both commercial and passenger traffic. It handles 20% of all Irish vessel traffic and is Ireland's 2nd largest passenger port.

The port operates 56 UK sailings, and 30 or more to the continent per week.

The offshore wind industry offers strong commercial possibilities for the port and county in general. It will also provide much needed infrastructure to enable Ireland to reach its renewable energy targets into the future. (Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 -2029).

New Ross Port is a Tier 3 Port and is also of strategic importance, particularly with regard to handling specialist cargo for both dry and liquid bulk products. Other harbours in the county have important functions serving local marine business and the fishing industry. Kilmore Quay is a strategic location for a large Irish based fleet and is also home to a blue flag marina.

2.8 Water & Wastewater Services

Uisce Éireann (UE) took over the responsibility for direct management of Public Water and Wastewater Services in County Wexford in September 2023. Uisce Éireann operates 124 water facilities and 1950 km of public water mains serving approximately 111,996 people. Uisce Éireann also operates 208 wastewater facilities and 501 Km of public sewer throughout the county treating the waste from both domestic and trade/industrial sources.

Wexford County Council also operates a small number of supplies that are non-Uisce Éireann, including 51 small borehole supplies and 16 wastewater plants.

2.9 Energy

County Wexford Coastal Wind Farm (Wexford County Council)

County Wexford has a total installed wind capacity of 182MW and contributes approximately 4.2% of Irelands wind and hydro generator installed capacity, according

to the SEAI in 2022. As at October 2022, 44 solar farms have been granted planning in County Wexford with an estimated combined output of 604MW covering an area of approximately 1180Ha.

2.10 Natural Environment

County Wexford is in the Irish River Basin District. The two major rivers in County Wexford are the Slaney and the Barrow. The Barrow is the second longest river in Ireland at 192km. The county has areas that are protected by European and National legislation including: 15 candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), 1 designated SAC, 9 designated Special Protection Areas (SPA), 3 Ramsar sites (including Bannow Bay), 27 proposed Natural heritage Areas (NHA), 1 designated Natural Heritage Area at Keeragh Islands and 3 nature reserves.

Of County Wexford's 70 beaches, there are 6 Blue Flag beaches and 10 Green Coast Award beaches. There are two blue flag marinas – Kilmore Quay and New Ross. The 260km coastline stretches from Kilmichael Point in the north of the county to Waterford Harbour located in the south.

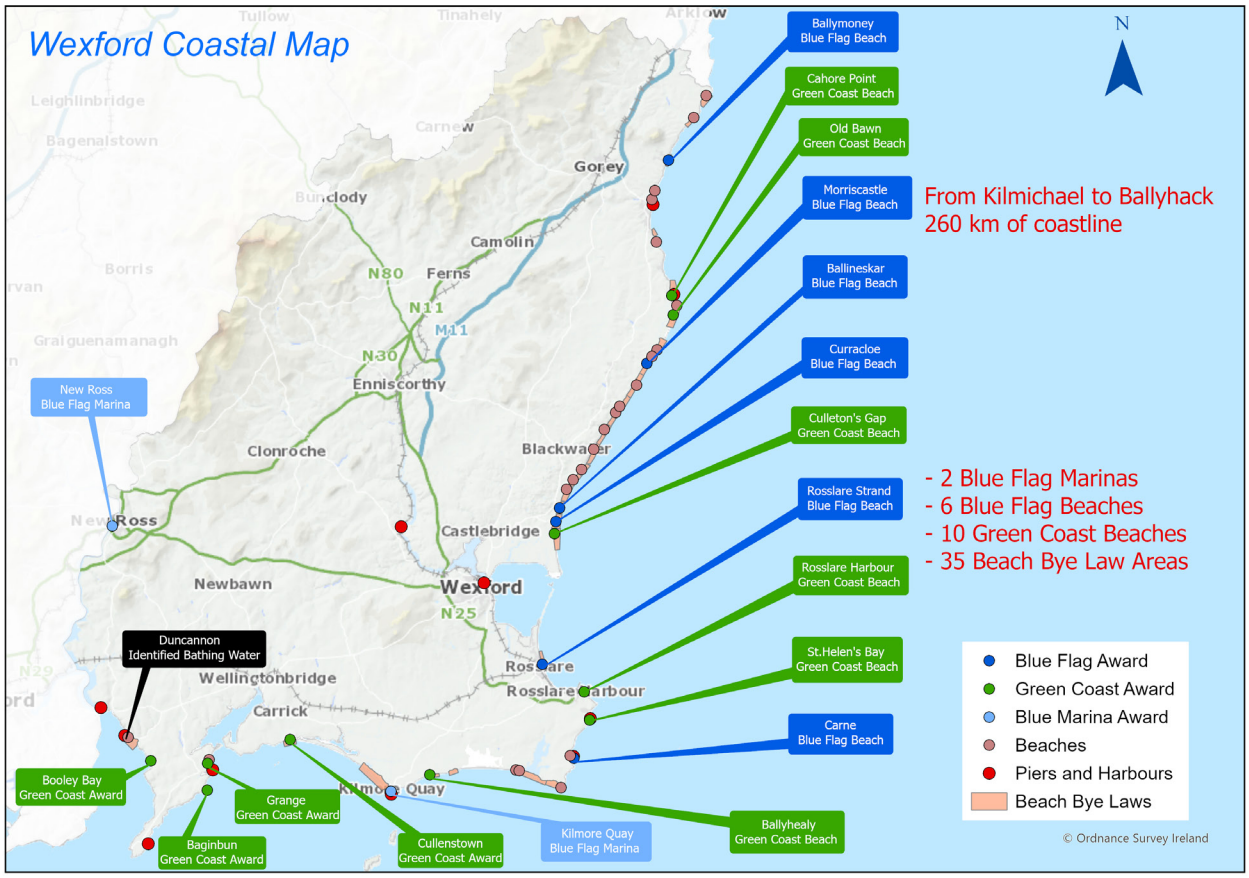


Figure 2.2 Blue and Green Flag Beaches and Marinas in County Wexford, 2023.

2.11 Agriculture

There are 4,330 farms in the county according to the 2020 Agri-Census.

County Wexford's farming economy is diverse, with less than 30% of farms focused on specialised beef production, compared to 53% nationally. The county also has an above average level of mixed crops and livestock, mixed field crops, specialist tillage farming and higher than average employment in the sector.

2.12 Emergency Response Planning

A Major Emergency is defined as any event which, usually with little or no warning, causes or threatens death or injury, serious disruption of essential services or damage to property, the environment or infrastructure beyond the normal capabilities of the principal emergency services in the area in which the event occurs. It requires the activation of specific additional procedures and the mobilisation of additional resources to ensure an effective, co-ordinated response.

A Framework for Major Emergency Management (MEM) was adopted by government decision in 2006. Its purpose is to set out common arrangements and structures for front-line public-sector emergency management in Ireland. The Framework is based on the internationally recognised systems' approach that, in essence, proposes an iterative cycle of continuous activity through five stages of emergency management: Hazard identification; Mitigation; Preparedness; Response; and Recovery. Under the Framework, the Council is one of the three Principal Response Agencies (PRAs) and it works closely with the two other Principal Response Agencies – An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive (HSE). Together, the principal response agencies deal with all aspects of emergency management and major emergencies, including a co-ordinated response to extreme weather events. There are a number of organisations and agencies which may be called upon to assist the principal response agencies in responding to major emergencies in addition to specialist national and local organisations, including the Civil Defence, Defence Forces, Irish Red Cross, Irish Coast Guard, Other Voluntary Emergency Services and the Utility companies (ESB, Bus Éireann etc)

2.12.1 Emergency Response at a Regional and local level

Wexford County Council operates in the South East Major Emergency Management Region. This region incorporates the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford. An inter-agency Regional Steering Group was formed for the South East Major Emergency Planning Region. This group represents senior management from each of the Principal Response Agencies. A Regional Working Group on Major Emergency Management was also established to support and progress Major Emergency Management in the South-East Region.

County Wexford Farmland (Celtic Routes)

The functional area of the Major Emergency Plan is the administrative county of Wexford. Wexford County Council incorporates the municipal districts of Wexford, Gorey and Kilmuckridge, Enniscorthy, New Ross and Rosslare. In the event of a Major Emergency Wexford County Council will ensure that danger areas are made safe in order to permit other agencies to undertake their recovery and rehabilitation operations. In the immediate aftermath of an incident, principal concerns include support for the other emergency services, support and care for the local and wider community, use of resources to mitigate the effects of the emergency and co-ordination of the voluntary organisations. In the 'recovery' phase the County Council will be responsible to lead and co-ordinate the rehabilitation of the community and the restoration of the environment.

The Major Emergency Plan includes sub-plans, such as the Flood Emergency Plan and the Severe Weather Plan which outline the mobilisation procedures and regional co-ordination protocols for responding to the varied challenges presented by extreme weather events. Wexford County Council relies on the Met Éireann weather alert system to receive advance notice of severe weather conditions. These alerts help the Council assess the appropriate response measures to safeguard the welfare of citizens, protect critical infrastructure, support businesses, and ensure un-interrupted service delivery.

CASE STUDY 3:

SUDS in Wexford Town

SUDS stands for sustainable urban drainage systems. They are spaces within the urban landscapes designed with the nature in mind. They can help manage rainwater run-off, allow for recharging of the natural aquifer, help prevent flooding and provide habitat for wildlife.

Pictured is one such space, newly developed and planted in Couty Wexford. This kind of drainage can potentially have numerous benefits for urban spaces.

Whitethorn Hedgerow Vinegar Hill Enniscorthy (Wexford County Council)

3 Evidence-based Climate Action

3.1 Importance of evidence-based climate action planning

The Climate Action Plan must be underpinned by a robust evidence-base. Building the evidence base enables Wexford County Council to apply a systematic approach to better understanding the challenges, identify synergies, opportunities and leverage mechanisms and actors in the delivery of effective climate action. Building the evidence base includes:

- Assessing climate change risks and impacts specific to County Wexford
- Developing a countywide baseline emissions inventory
- Developing a baseline emissions inventory for the Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone.

Conventionally, climate change mitigation and adaptation have been approached as two distinct agendas. The Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan presents an opportunity to deliver both agendas in an integrated way. Building the evidence base forms, the basis for integrated local level climate action and consequently, stronger place-based climate action.

3.2 Wexford County Council Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)

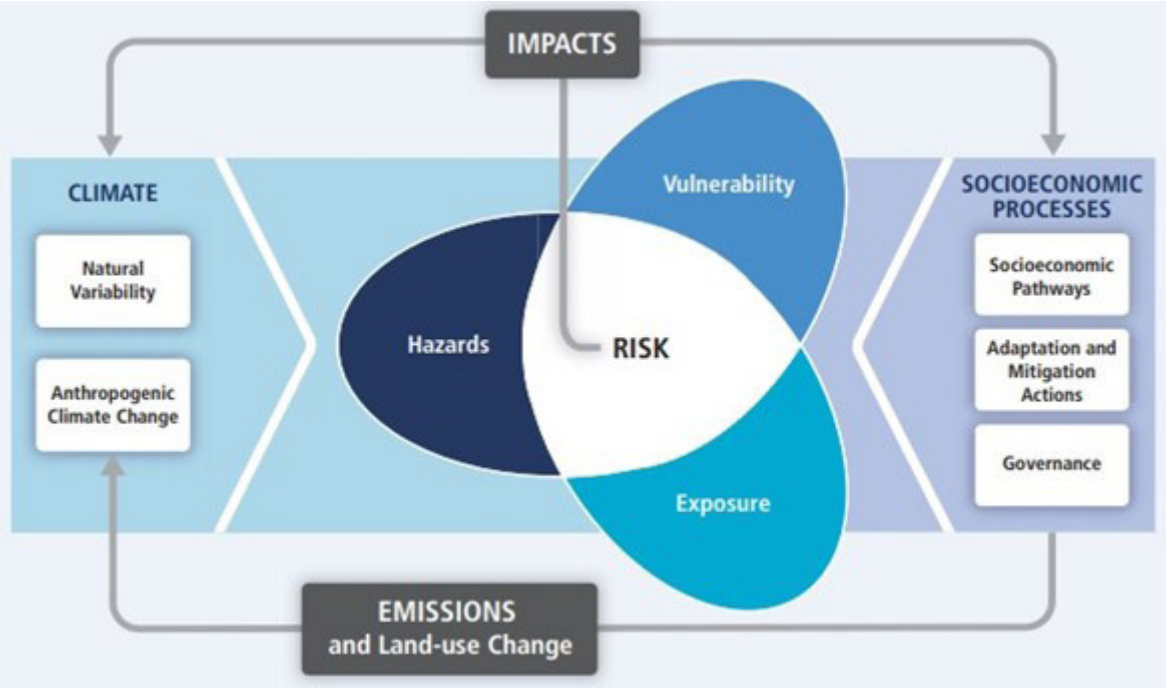


Figure 3.1 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report Framework of Climate Risk which shows how the three components of risk (hazards, exposure, vulnerability) are connected to climate and socioeconomic processes - (Fifth IPCC Assessment Report).

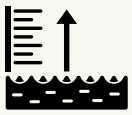
A Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) was carried out by Wexford County Council as part of the development of the Climate Action Plan. A Climate Change Risk Assessment is integral to informing the preparation of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan by identifying and prioritising current and future risks. It assists in the identification of possible adaptation responses to reduce or remove climate change risks within Wexford County Council.

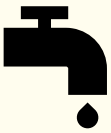
The Risk Assessment was prepared in accordance with the methodology provided in Annex B of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines. The Climate Change Risk Assessment focuses on the delivery of services and functions by Wexford County Council and is part of the evidence base to support the Climate Action Plan.

3.2.1 Climate Hazards Identified for County Wexford

Fourteen climate hazards have been identified that are applicable to County Wexford.

Table 3.1 Climate Hazards identified for County Wexford

Impact		Exposure/Risk
Alluvial (River) Flooding		• Damage to critical infrastructure • Reduced function of transport • Increased maintenance works • Reduced water quality • Environmental contamination • Stress on biodiversity and environmentally sensitive areas • Pressure on emergency response staff over prolonged periods
Pluvial (Land/Surface) Flooding		• Damage to critical infrastructure • Reduced function of transport • Increased maintenance works • Reduced water quality • Prolonged disruption of services
Coastal Flooding		• Harm to harbour services • Damage to environmentally sensitive areas (estuaries and beaches) • Increased vulnerability of coastal communities
Extreme Precipitation		• Contaminated water bodies • Increased turbidity • Cancellation of events

Impact		Exposure/Risk
Heavy Snowfall		• Damage to over head power and communication lines • Roof collapse • Disruption to services • Water shortages • Impassible roads for extended periods
Severe Windstorm		• Serious property damage • Dangerous, potentially life threatening conditions • Habitat destruction
Storm Surge		• Critical Infrastructure exposed • Disrupted transportation routes • Increased clean-up, maintenance, and repair costs
Coastal Erosion		• Loss of homes, businesses and landscape • Loss of coastal habitats and heritage
Heatwave		• Health impacts such as heat stroke • Uncomfortable or dangerous working conditions • Reduced water quality • Risk of fires • Unusual pressure on recreational areas • Changes to growing season
Drought		• Inadequate water supply • Higher risk of waterborne disease • Additional emergency response call outs • Increased pressure on services and infrastructure
Above Average Surface Temperature		• Same as Drought or Heatwave with increased concerns for the ecological structure of the county • Changes in growing seasons • Changes for ecosystems.

Impact		Exposure/Risk
Increase in Relative Sea Level		• Critical infrastructure, housing, business and farming all subject to increased risk from storm surges, coastal flooding and coastal erosion
Above Average Precipitation		• Drainage requirements exceeding capacity. • Flooding becoming more frequent • Damage to mental health of citizens • Increased use of fossil fuels furthering climate change
Cold Spell		• Decreased water supply • Damage to mental and physical health • Uncomfortable or dangerous working conditions

3.2.2 Climate Hazard Frequency

Table 3.2 illustrates that severe windstorms often combined with extreme precipitation, are the most frequently occurring climate hazards for County Wexford. For timeline of extreme events for the last 30 years, see Appendix B.

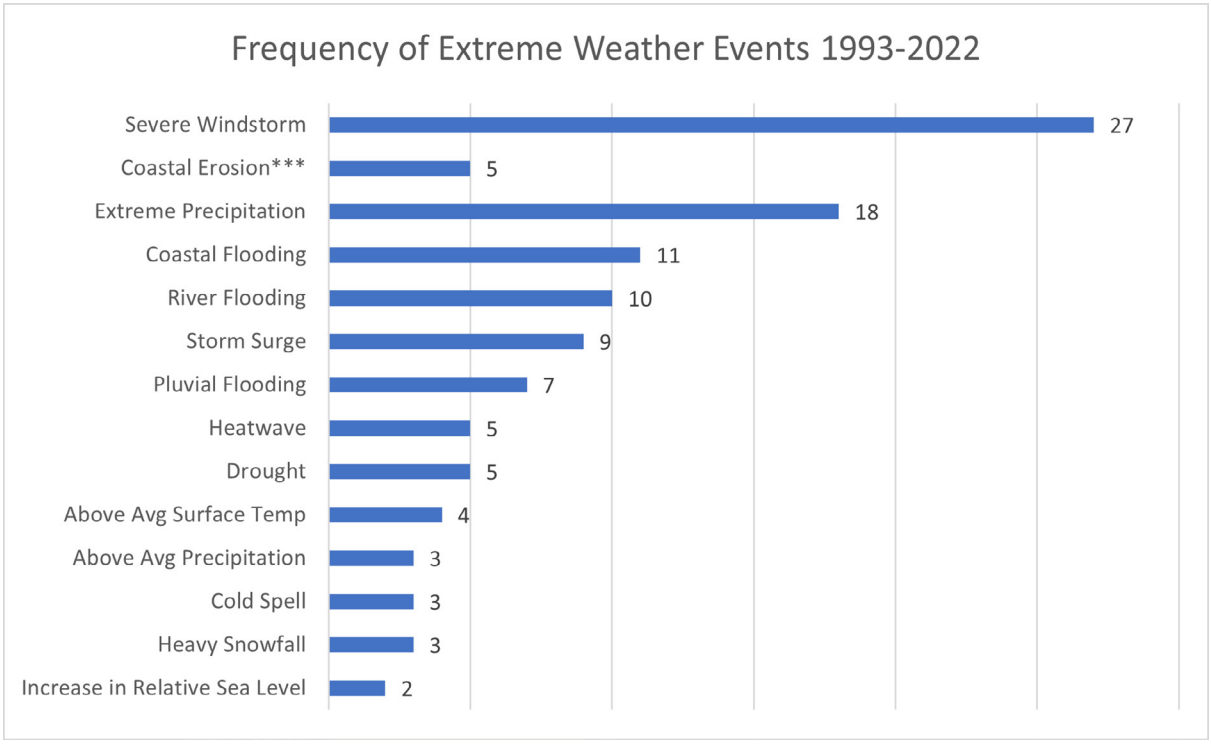


Table 3.2 Frequency of climate hazard types affecting County Wexford 1993 - 2022

*** Coastal erosion has been identified as a unique hazard type due to its ongoing nature.

It was noted that erosion rates have accelerated in County Wexford in recent years, as several high wind events, storm surge occurrences and coastal flooding events particularly over the last 5 years have exacerbated the coastal erosion rate at identified erosion risk zones in County Wexford as seen in Table 3.2. This is known through ongoing monitoring of the coastline using aerial mapping records, GPS surveys and drone footage. In addition, monitoring is carried out following extreme weather events. Key historic events providing evidence of significant impacts have been identified in the climate hazard record and profile, but due to the above-mentioned information on the rate of erosion, it is ranked as a very frequent event.

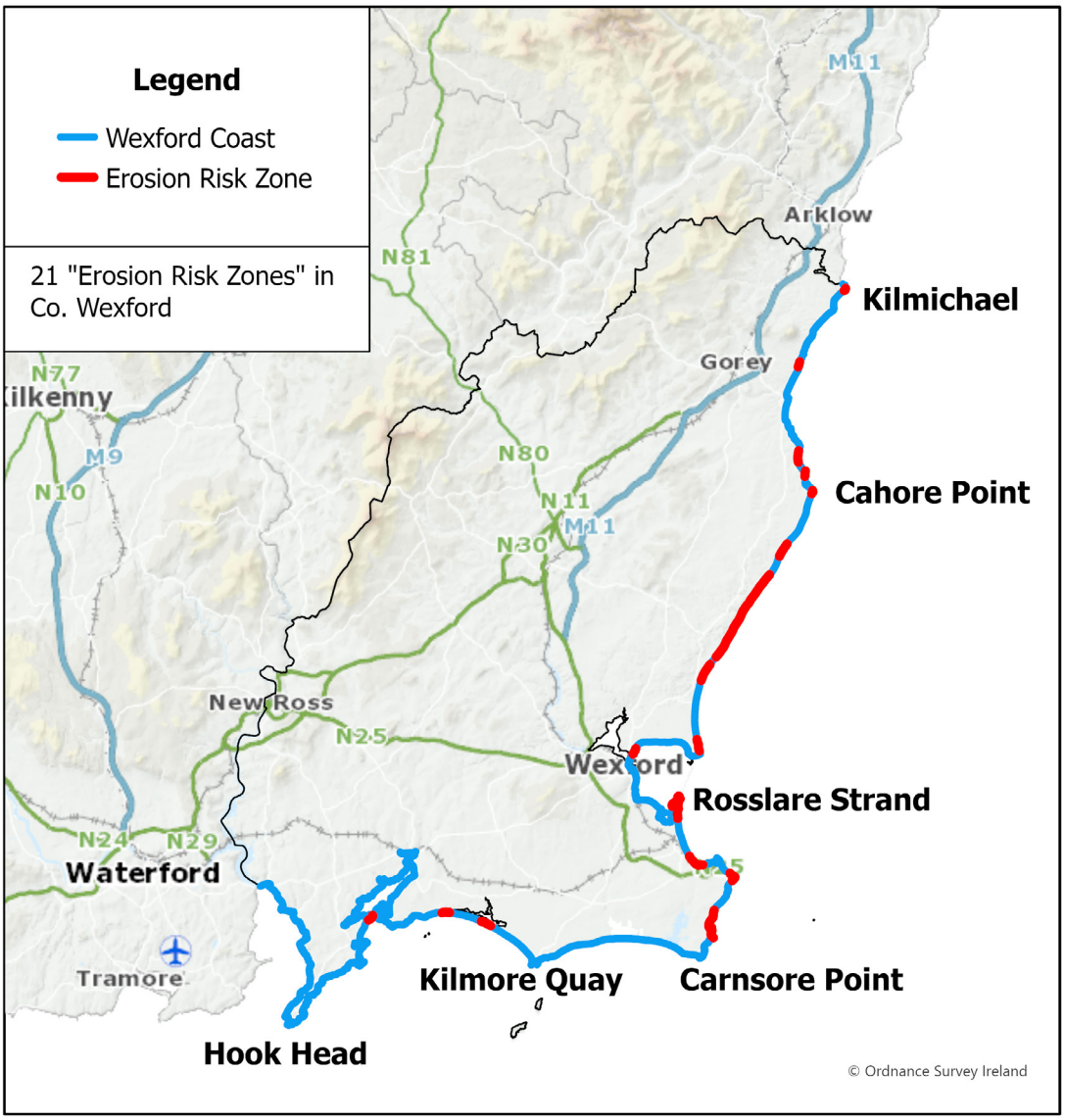
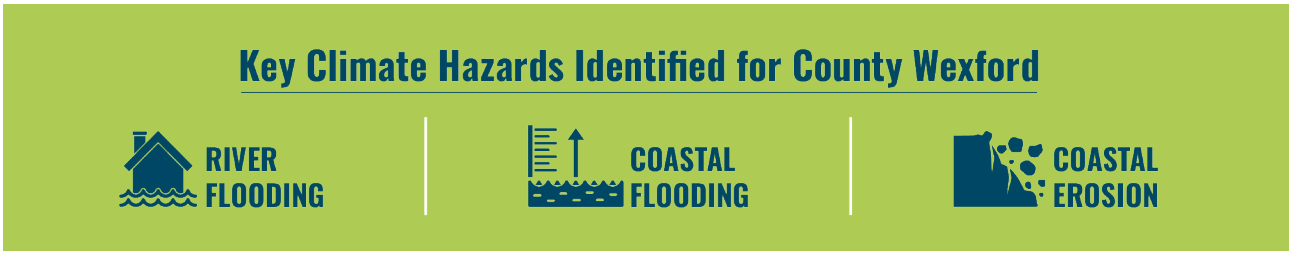


Figure 3.2 Areas at risk of Coastal Erosion in County Wexford

3.2.3 Current Climate Risks Identified for County Wexford

Based on the risk assessment, the most significant current climate risks in County Wexford are identified as: River Flooding; Coastal Flooding; and Coastal Erosion.



3.2.4 Future Climate Risks to Wexford County Council

The future climate risks projected to impact Wexford County Council are presented according to the future frequency and future level of impact of the hazard (see Figure 3.3).

The level of future impact is calculated as the average level of impact across the following categories:

- Asset Damage
- Health and Wellbeing
- Environment (including biodiversity)
- Social
- Financial
- Reputation
- Cultural Heritage.

Future projections of climate change indicate that Extreme Precipitation, Prolonged Cold Periods and Heavy Snowfall will remain relatively consistent with existing conditions.

However, risk is predicted to increase for all other identified climate hazards, with River Flooding, Coastal Flooding and Coastal Erosion remaining the perceived highest risk to County Wexford.

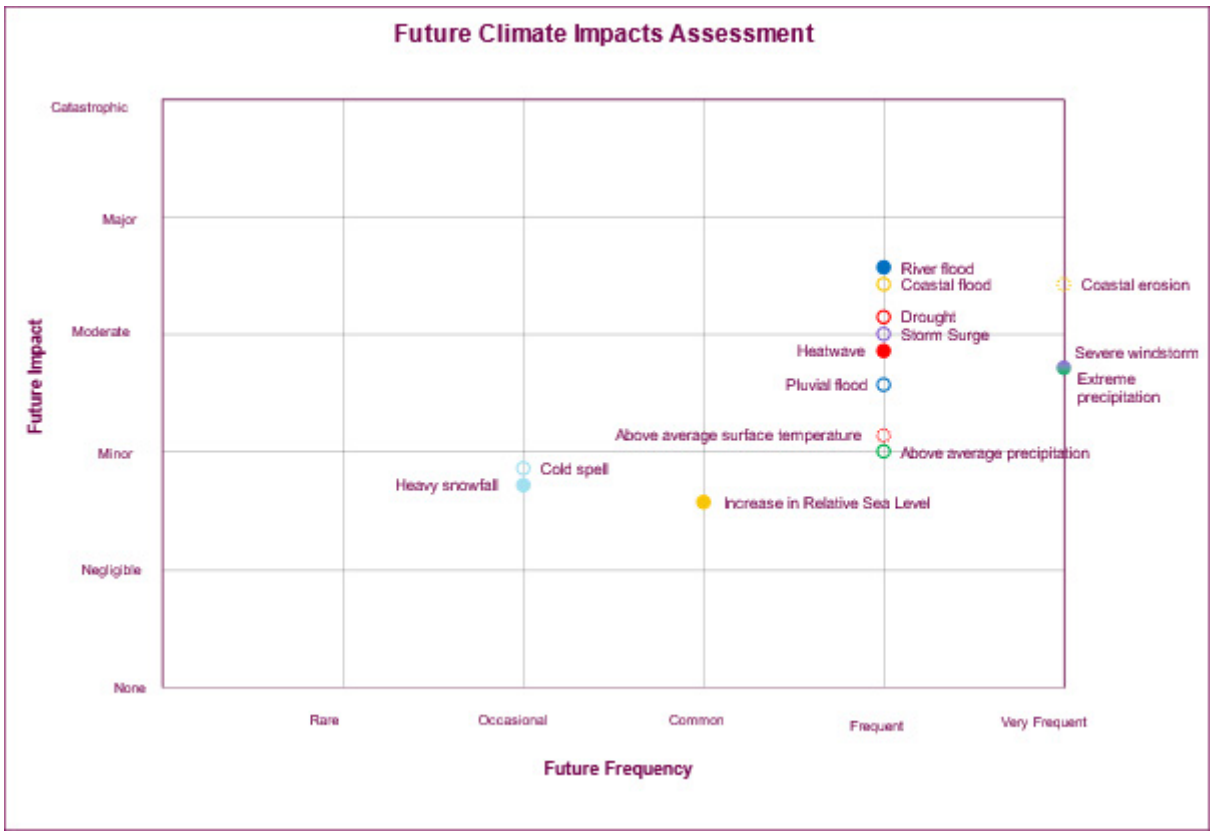


Figure 3.3 Future Climate Impact Assessment

3.3 Baseline Emission Inventory for County Wexford

Wexford County Council engaged the South East Energy Agency (SEEA) to prepare a Tier 2 Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) for County Wexford to serve as an evidence-base for mitigation planning in County Wexford, and to inform the development of the 5-year County Wexford Climate Action Plan.

The Baseline Emissions Inventory is a key instrument that will enable Wexford County Council to measure the impact of all actions related to emission reductions across its own operations as well as varying sectors of society. The BEI represents an evidence-based approach to not only inform appropriate emission reduction actions, but also measure progress over time.

It is important to note that the Baseline Emissions Inventory is a ‘snapshot in time’ of an area’s greenhouse gas emissions sources, and it is not an inventory of emission reduction opportunities (DECC, 2023).

The results and the methodology used to calculate County Wexford’s energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions per sector for 2018 (referred to as the Baseline) are outlined in the full Baseline Emissions Inventory report. The Baseline Emissions Inventory report outlines the 2018 baseline data for County Wexford as a whole, which includes

Wexford County Councils 2018 data. However, for Wexford County Council's own targets, the 2016-2018 baseline period has been used, as outlined in the Climate Action Plan 2021. The 2030 target for local authorities is based on the 2016-2018 data submitted to SEAI through the Monitoring & Reporting system.

The methodology and Tier 2 approach for the County Wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory is outlined in the "Technical Annex C: Climate Mitigation Assessment" of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines" (DECC, 2023).

Solar Panels on roof of County Hall Wexford Town (Wexford County Council)

Tier 2 is the bottom-up approach for data analysis. This involves taking national and local-scale datasets together to examine at county-wide greenhouse gas emissions across various sectors including:

- Residential
- Manufacturing & Commercial
- Industrial Processes
- Agriculture
- Transport
- Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)
- Waste
- Fluorinated Gases.

This baseline data aims to raise awareness of climate change and the impact that different sectors in County Wexford have on Ireland's overall carbon emissions and energy use. It provides Wexford County Council with the necessary information to make decisions on climate actions to reduce their own direct carbon emissions which they are responsibility and accountable for.

The methodology used for the analysis was developed using MapEIre, Environmental Protection Agency data, and other publicly available local sources.

For this Plan the Baseline Emissions includes emissions generated from the following sectors:

- Large Industries
- Buildings (residential and commercial)
- Industrial processes
- Waste
- Transport
- Agriculture
- Fluorinated gases.

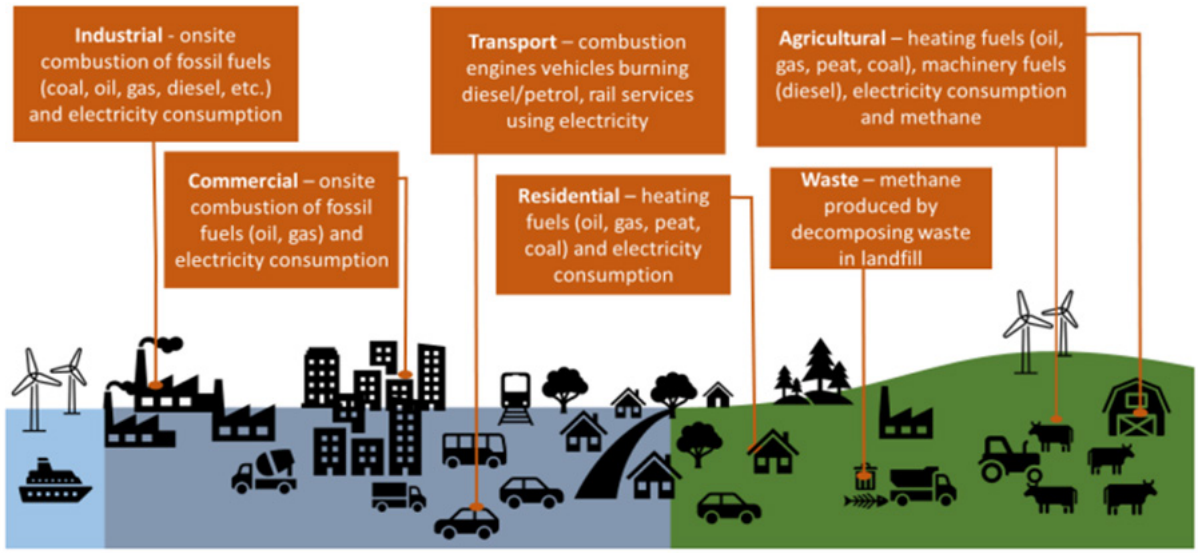


Figure 3.4 Representative Sectoral Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Source: Codema)

Emission factors are used to convert energy use to CO_2eq emissions. Emissions factors for different fuel types are published by SEAI annually and the 2018 factors were used for this report as the baseline year is 2018.

The target for greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 is 51% reduction from the baseline year of 2018.

Total Baseline greenhouse gas emission for 2018 for County Wexford is **2,460.1 ktCO_2eq**.

Allowable greenhouse gas emissions for County Wexford in 2030 is **1,205.5 ktCO_2eq**.

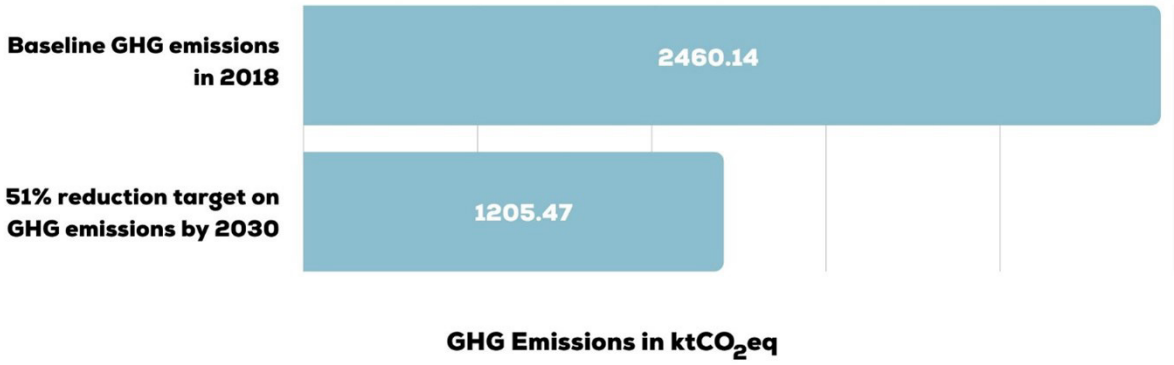


Figure 3.5 County Wexford Baseline Emissions and Allowable Greenhouse Gas emissions

3.3.1 County Wide Baseline Emissions

The breakdown of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption per sector, in 2018, is as follows:

Residential

- Total residential emissions were 433.9 $ktCO_2eq$.
- Total energy consumed by residential sector was 1,468.1 GWh

Manufacturing and Commercial

- Total commercial and manufacturing emissions were 403.2 $ktCO_2eq$.
- Total energy consumed by commercial and manufacturing sector was 1,611.4 GWh

Industrial Processes

- Total emissions from industrial processes were 14.6 $ktCO_2eq$.

Agriculture

- Total emissions in 2018 from the Agricultural sector were 968.2 $ktCO_2eq$.
- Total final energy used in 2018 was 163.2 GWh

Transport

- Total final emissions from transport were 428.2 $ktCO_2eq$.
- Total final Energy for Transport sector was 1,619.4 GWh

Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

- Total emissions from LULUCF sector were 177.2 kt of CO_2 eq.

Waste

- Total emissions from waste sector were 28.9 $ktCO_2$ eq.

Fluorinated Gases

- In County Wexford there were no emissions accounted from Fluorinated gases.

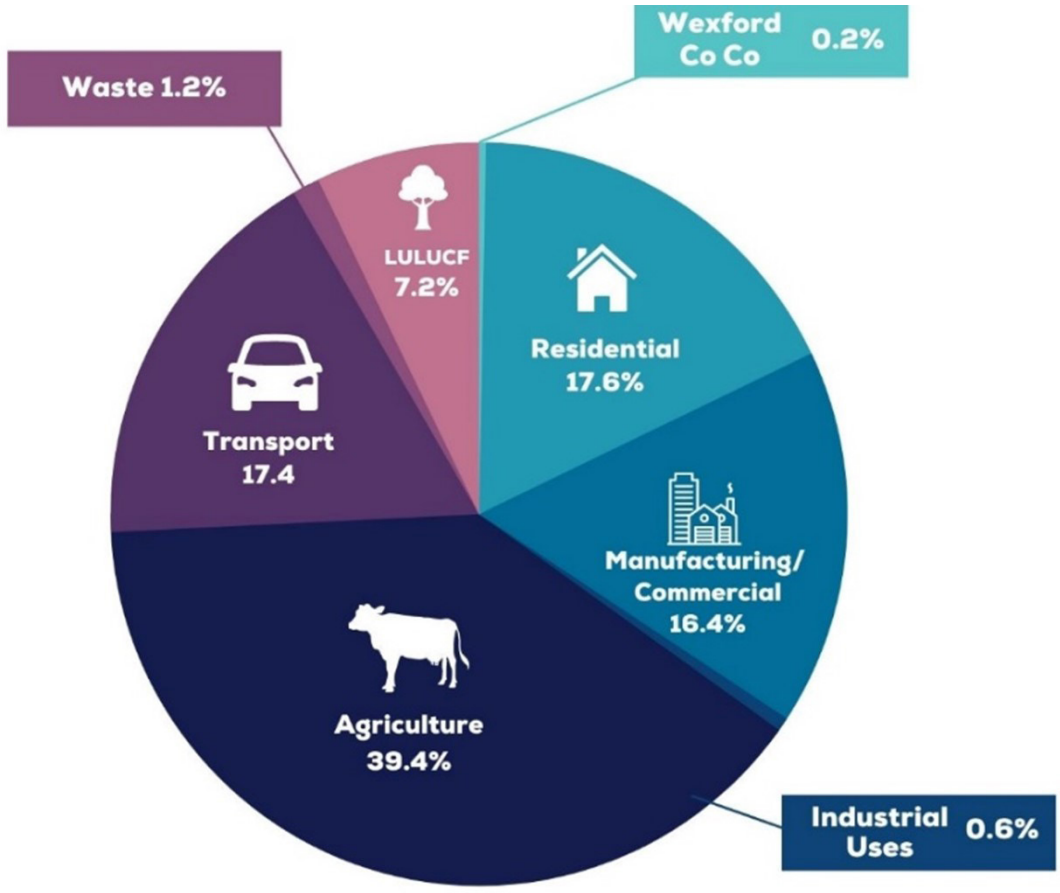


Figure 3.6 Share of Total Emissions per sector in County Wexford

3.3.2 Wexford County Council Baseline Emissions Results 2016-2018

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

Wexford County Council must demonstrate alignment with the key principles of the Local Authority Climate Action Planning Guidelines to ensure that the local authority climate action plan is: Ambitious, Action-focused, Evidence-based, Participative and Transparent.

Wexford County Council (WCC) is responsible for the energy use and emissions from its buildings and facilities, its public lighting, and its vehicle fleet.

In Ireland, public sector bodies are required to report on their annual energy use to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). This is done through the Monitoring and Reporting system (M&R), which is used to track the local authorities progress towards 2030, compared to the baseline year. The baseline year for Wexford County Council's energy efficiency targets is 2009, and for greenhouse gas emissions the baseline is 2016-2018.

Wexford County Council has reported using this system since 2012, and all data has been verified and accepted by SEAI. The results are published in the Annual Report on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance (see most recent 2021 report - Sustainable Authority of Ireland, 2021). The National Climate Action plan 2021 requires the public sector including all local Authorities in calculating their 2018 baseline to use an average of the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 (2016-2018).

From the M & R system, the 2016-2018 energy & CO_2 emissions data is broken down by fuel type. The fuel types are categorized by energy use:

1. Electricity
2. Thermal
3. Transport

To outline where the energy and greenhouse gas emissions are coming from within Wexford County Council, the energy use was broken down into three categories for reporting greenhouse gas emissions. This will allow for targeted projects within the LA Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions most effectively:

- Local Authority Buildings/Facilities
- Public Lighting
- Transport

When this energy use is converted into greenhouse gas emissions, the council's average annual emissions for the 2016-2018 period amounted to 7.11ktCO_2eq.

- Transport accounted for 1.52 ktCO_2eq (21%)
- Buildings and Facilities accounted for 3.05 ktCO_2eq (43%) of Wexford County Council total carbon emissions.
- Public Lighting with 2.54 ktCO_2eq (36%)

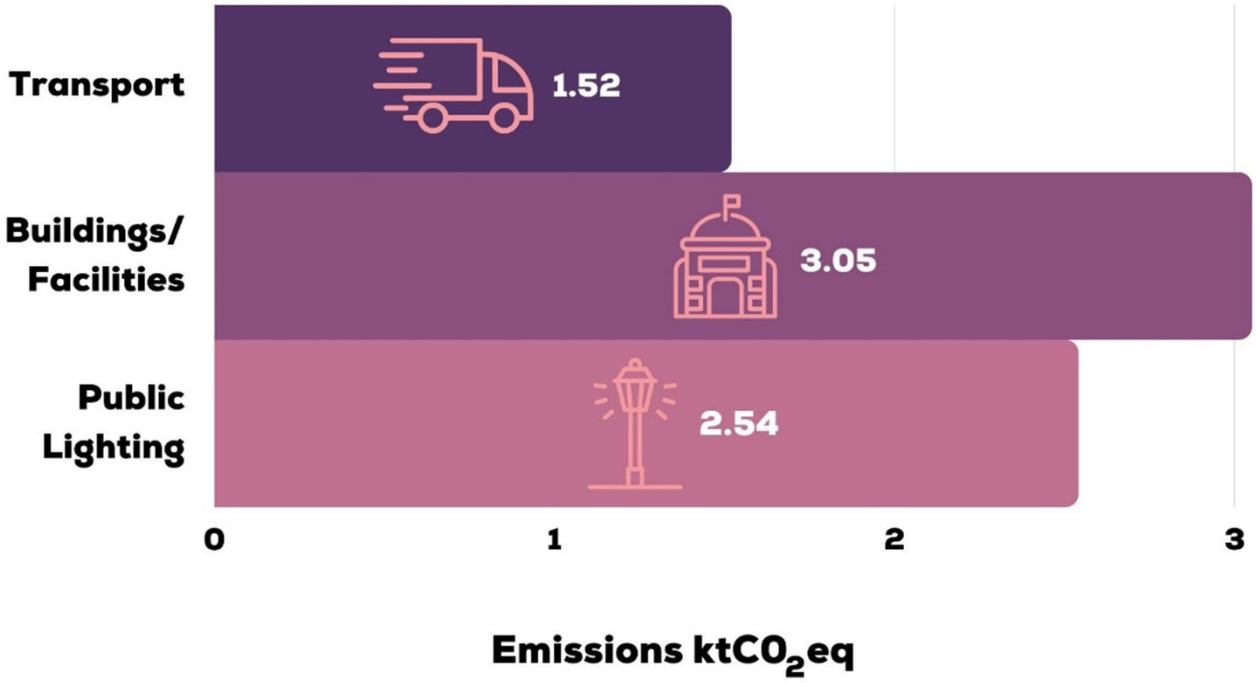


Figure 3.7: Breakdown of 2016-2018 greenhouse gas emissions in ktCO$_2$eq, by Wexford County Council - split by SEU Category

Due to the public sector targets which outline a reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions for Thermal & Transport of 51% & Electricity of 77%, the allowable greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 by Wexford County Council is 2.27 ktCO$_2$eq (68% overall greenhouse gas reduction).

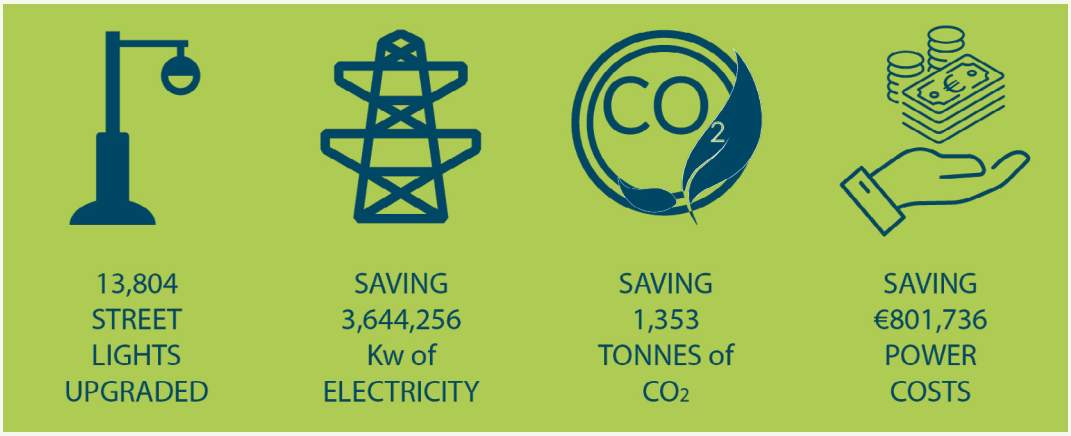
From the results obtained from the M&R system, Wexford County Council's annual average energy consumption for the period 2016-2018 was 22.68 GWh.

3.4 Baseline Emission Inventory for Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone (DZ)

A separate chapter is contained in the Climate Action plan for the Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone. The Baseline Emission Inventory for the DZ is contained in Chapter 5.

CASE STUDY 4:

Street Light Replacement Programme



Since 2017, Wexford County Council has been undertaking a programme of replacement of the old public lighting with energy efficient lighting. This programme will have paid for itself within 6 -7 years following on from the very large savings made in CO_2 emissions, energy consumption and maintenance.

There is now an asset replacement programme in place for public lighting, preventing the accumulation of large costs in maintenance and replacement going forward. The quality of light provided by the LED lighting now in place is of a better quality for visibility and safety.

This project is a clear illustration of the opportunities for long term savings(financial & GHG emissions) and improvements in service that are available to the council and the wider community.

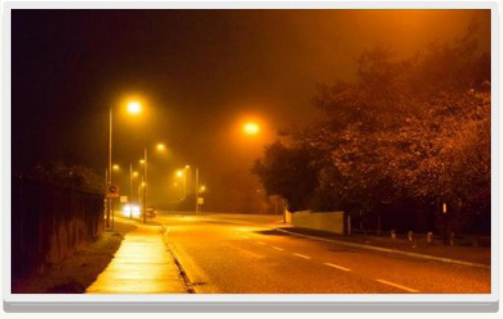


Photo of Public Lighting before LED Retrofitting

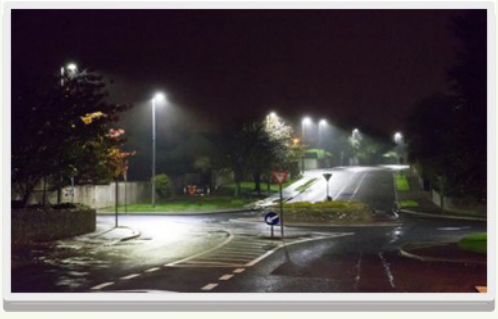


Photo of Public Lighting after LED Retrofitting

4 Framework of Climate Actions

The Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan provides a mechanism for bringing together both adaptation and mitigation actions to help drive positive climate action and outcomes across Wexford County Council and its administrative area. The plan has a defined structure that ensures alignment between the high-level vision that the plan aspires to deliver and the arrangement of climate actions.

Figure 4.1 Framework of Climate Actions

4.1 Plan 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.

4.2 Plan Mission

Our mission is to transition County Wexford to a Climate Resilient, Biodiversity Rich, Environmentally Sustainable and Climate Neutral Economy by:

1. Reducing Wexford County Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030
2. Implementing the actions within this Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan

3. 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.

4.3 Strategic Goals & Objectives within Action Areas

To identify goals and objectives to support County Wexford in achieving climate resilience and climate neutrality, it is first necessary to identify appropriate action areas. These are developed from as assessment of the impacts and risks carried out and the total greenhouse gas emissions for County Wexford based on a baseline year of 2018.

Five Action Areas have been identified with strategic goals and objectives for each action area.

Figure 4.2 Five Action Areas for the Climate Action Plan

Wexford County Council Library Delivery Van – Vehicles such as these will become electric as part of this Plan. (Wexford County Council)

Governance and Leadership (GL)

GL Goal: Foster Governance, Leadership and Partnerships for Climate Action

GL Objective: Wexford County Council will show leadership in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation through its structures, processes and policies.

The governance element focuses on climate action resources within Wexford County Council and how they can be utilised to raise awareness on climate actions. It aims to foster ownership of actions in every service we provide as a Local Authority. This is achieved through the incorporation of Climate Actions into all our policies and plans. Climate action brings both challenges and opportunities for County Wexford. Through the County Development Plan 2022-2028, the Council is committed to addressing climate change in a proactive manner through the integration of climate action into every chapter and strategy in the plan.

A main objective of the Corporate Plan 2019-2024 is to work towards a Clean and Green County Wexford with collective action on climate change which is delivered through the Annual Service Delivery Programme. Other policies where Climate Action is a significant consideration include the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 -2029 and the County Wexford Arts and Culture Plans 2023-2027.

This new Climate Action Plan will build on the existing measures and actions in place through the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which was adopted by the elected members in 2019. The Adaptation strategy focused on how Wexford County Council could adapt to the impacts of climate change. The new plan brings together mitigation and adaptation measures and the co-benefits and synergies that can be explored. This identifies our exemplar role by advocating climate action across the county. Governance and leadership actions in County Wexford also support the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Built Environment and Transport (BET)

BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport.

BET Objective: Reduce Wexford County Councils greenhouse gas emissions by 51% in our Built Environment and Transport and increase the resilience of our assets.

This area is focused on our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 51% and energy consumption by 50% by 2030.

The transport element focuses on the promotion of alternative modes of travel to private car usage such as active travel and increased use of public transport. It also focuses on innovative ways of reducing our emissions within our own transport fleet and an increase in the use of EVs and EV charging infrastructure.

Public Lighting has the highest greenhouse gas emissions from Wexford County Council at

41%. This is followed by buildings and facilities which contribute 38% and Transport 21% of the overall greenhouse gas emissions from Wexford County Council.

In terms of energy consumption, the buildings account for 45% of the total energy consumed with public lighting accounting for 31% and Transport 24%.

For the county wide emissions, the residential sector accounts for 17.6% with the transport sector a very close second at 17.4%.

Climate adaptation is also an important element of this action area, where the council strives to be prepared for major climate weather events and works to alleviate pluvial and fluvial flooding and build climate resistant communities.

Built Environment and Transport actions in County Wexford also support the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure (NEGI)

NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

NEGI Objective: Wexford County Council will support and facilitate the protection, management, and enhancement of the natural environment of County Wexford.

We endeavour to promote effective biodiversity management and to enhance protection of our natural habitats and landscapes. It aims to protect the quality of our waters and to

enhance our inland and coastal areas. Our natural environment can be greatly impacted by climate change, but it also offers great opportunities for successful climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Flooding in Rosslare District 2022 (Wexford County Council)

The sand dunes on County Wexford's coast for example provide natural coastal protection against storm surge and high waves and help prevent or reduce coastal flooding and structural damage to properties behind them. The diversity of dune shapes is also ideal for unique plants and animals to thrive creating habitats that are internationally valued providing co-benefits for climate adaptation and enhancement of biodiversity.

Green infrastructure is an interconnected network of natural space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations. Green Infrastructure describes the functionality of rivers, inland waterways, floodplains, wetlands, woodlands, farmland, coastal areas, parks and open spaces, natural conservation areas, gardens and allotments and the services provided by it. It includes, for example, existing ditches to carry water rather than piped networks.

Green Infrastructure has positive economic, social and health benefits. It contributes not only to climate change adaptation and mitigation but to the protection of urban and rural environments for people, and the protection, enhancement and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which in turn delivers environmental benefits and quality of life benefits such as improving air, water and soil quality, flood protection, access provisions and linkages and pollution control.

Investment in Green Infrastructure is crucial as it forms a valuable asset in flood risk

management, coastal protection and carbon storage while supporting biodiversity and offering opportunities for ecosystem services and recreation. Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), with healthy and biodiverse ecosystems at their core, are central to achieving objectives relating to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and play a critical role in climate change adaptation and becoming more climate resilient. NBS are about using nature's own resources – clean air, water and soil in a smart way to tackle environmental challenges. These solutions work with nature to provide sustainable, cost-effective ways to achieve a greener economy that is competitive and resourceful. The Climate Actions will consider all recent and future SUDS documents and reports, when implementing NBS solutions.

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure actions in County Wexford also support the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Communities, Resilience & Transition (CRT)

CRT Goal: Mobilise Climate Action, increase resilience and a just transition in Local Communities.

CRT Objective: To identify what matters to communities and support communities in co-creating a vision for low carbon and climate resilience and empower them to follow through on meaningful and impactful climate action.

Wexford County Council recognises the crucial role communities play in climate action at local level. Supporting the creation of low carbon communities and building climate

resilience while providing supports in terms of skills, knowledge and funding is key. It aims to develop mechanisms to engage with and support communities on climate action by empowering them to become sustainable, inclusive and climate resilient.

Energy saving kits available to borrow at County Wexford Libraries

County Wexford is fortunate to have very active local communities such as Sustainable Energy Communities and Tidy Towns groups along with a number of other environmental voluntary groups. Wexford County Council Environmental Awards are held annually to recognise the hard work, dedication and commitment of these volunteer groups who make a real difference at local level. County Wexford's Public Participation Network (PPN) plays an important role in supporting Climate Action & Sustainability through its members and Community groups. The plan presents an opportunity for members to feed in their vital local knowledge and community experience to shape climate action planning for County

Wexford. The PPN aims to aid capacity building within community groups, and through local community climate action plans, implement simple and achievable steps in facing mitigation and adaptation challenges.

The implementation of the Climate Action Plan also aims to facilitate a Just Transition across the County. A Just Transition means ensuring that the transition towards meeting the National Climate Objective, happens in a way that is fair and equitable. Delivering a just transition is based on recognizing the transformational level of change required to meet the climate action targets. It involves ensuring that the benefits of a green economy transition are shared widely and supporting those who may be economically affected by the changes. This includes protecting vulnerable groups, regions, industries, workers, and consumers, as outlined in the 2023 National Climate Action Plan.

Communities, Resilience and Transition actions in County Wexford also support the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainability & Resource Management (SRM)

SRM Goal: Create and enhance a culture of prevent, reduce, reuse, and recycle of resources to promote a circular economy.

SRM Objective: Embed sustainable resource management and the circular economy in all functions and services throughout the organisation and across the county.

The promotion of the circular economy within Wexford County Councils own services and functions and throughout the county is the focus here. The circular economy aims

to transition from a linear economy where resources are used to make products that eventually end up as waste towards a closed-loop system where resources are valued, reused, regenerated, or recycled e.g. the new Re-turn Scheme. Wexford County Council has been involved for many years in promoting the circular economy through our waste management and environment awareness sections. The Council operates a number of recycling facilities in the county and promotes various initiatives at these facilities such as amnesty on paint tins and National Food Waste Recycling Week. Waste prevention and recycling and reuse of materials is also a theme in the Environment Awards held annually by Wexford County Council which recognises groups engaging in initiatives to promote activities where reduce and reuse is the core principle. The public sector has a responsibility to promote green procurement, to support Ireland's environmental and wider sustainable development objectives. Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle. Government policy commits to all procurement using public funds having green criteria included before the end of 2023. Wexford County Council Procurement Action Plan is committed to identifying a 'champion' from relevant departments to promote and ensure green procurement is considered when tendering for goods, services and works.

Sustainability and Resource Management actions in County Wexford also support the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

4.4 Actions

The actions are tailored in the plan to reflect the local conditions in County Wexford and the local impacts in the county and are conveyed in Table 4.1.

Mitigation and adaptation actions are based on the information gathered across a number of internal focused workshops and subgroup meetings in addition to actions identified that bring about co-benefits such as enhanced biodiversity, health improvements, increased environmental sustainability, green job creation and economic benefits.

The climate actions are presented in tabular format with each action aligned with the strategic goals of the sectoral strategy published in April 2021 by local government Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 (DECA).

The following measures apply to all the county actions listed in Table 4.1.

1 Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.

2 Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of greenhouse gas sequestration associated with land use functions.

3 Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effect on the receiving environment shall be supported.

4 Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.

5 Promote and encourage use of sustainable transport modes on all journeys undertaken as part of work by council personnel, as well as ensure that the journey is necessary.

6 Wexford County Council is committed 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 Climate Action Plan.

Governance and Leadership

Table 4.1 –County Climate Actions
See Appendix A for the DECA Goals and Objectives related to each climate action.

Governance and Leadership GL Goal : Foster Governance, Leadership and Partnerships for Climate Action							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
GL1	Wexford County Council will reduce its energy usage by 50% and our greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030.	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Yearly roadmap of planned emissions reductions b) % of Energy reduction per year c) % of greenhouse gases reduction per year	**All Sections within Wexford County Council**	Ongoing	Funding Resources Formation of South East Energy Unit	2.1 2.3
GL2	Mainstream Climate Action across all functional and service areas (through the Climate Action Steering Group) and ensure it is an integral consideration in all policies, plans, strategies, and procedures. Generate expenditure codes within the Financial Management System for major weather events and energy upgrade projects, and provide awareness to staff on use of codes to fully capture all costs	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Number of council policies, plans, strategies and procedures where climate action is a significant consideration b) Assign financial codes and provide awareness to staff on use of financial costs for climate related events	**All Sections within Wexford County Council** Finance	Ongoing	Staff understanding of mainstreaming climate action. Use of the new relevant codes	1.1 1.2 2.1 2.2 3.1

Governance and Leadership GL Goal : Foster Governance, Leadership and Partnerships for Climate Action							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
GL3	Appointment of a dedicated Energy Officer, Facilities Manager and a Biodiversity Officer (in addition to the existing Heritage Officer) and the continued commitment to the three positions of a Climate Action Coordinator, a Climate Action Officer and a Community Climate Action Officer.	Adaptation	a) Appointment of Biodiversity Officer, Facilities Manager & Energy Officer. b) Role commitment for the three dedicated roles within the Climate Action team	**Corporate Services** **Climate Action Team**	2024/2025	Department approval Funding availability	1.2 1.3 3.2
GL4	Wexford County Council will continue to develop emergency response coordination, including severe weather plan, flood plan, major emergency plan and adverse weather Emergency Housing protocol to increase staff and public awareness, highlight potential risk to safety and to ensure all people travel, only in safe conditions and design and document a process in providing a severe weather event incident logging system	Adaptation	a) Annual review of severe/ adverse weather plan documents and procedures b) Online incident logging system developed	**Major Emergency Management Committee** IT Department Health and Safety An Garda Siochana Housing Section Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU) Voluntary Groups	Ongoing	Resources Staff Training	3.1 1.5

Governance and Leadership GL Goal : Foster Governance, Leadership and Partnerships for Climate Action							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
GL5	Wexford County Council commits to a reduction in fossil fuel-based travel by 25% by 2029, to be achieved by a combined increased in online technology, sustainable transport options together with a concerted effort to reduce travel. The Council will also ensure sustainability criteria is appropriately considered during procurement processes and appropriate end-of-life vehicle management practices are in place	Mitigation	Percentage reduction in GHG from fossil fuel-based travel for staff & elected members	**Climate Action team** Senior Management All staff Elected members	2029	Staff Engagement Buy in from elected members	2.1 2.2 2.3 3.1 3.5
GL6	Promote Mapalerter to increase the number of registered users and raise awareness among the public and target groups of the various communication channels available in advance of extreme weather events	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Increase in alert recipients b) Number of farmers signed up for advance extreme rain warning pre slurry spreading	**ICT Environmental Section** PPN IFA	Ongoing	Members of the public registering for the service	4.2 4.4 4.6 5.6
GL7	Promote and support the Local Authority Blended Working Policy within the organisation	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of staff commencing blended working and emissions saved	**HR & all operational Wexford County Council**	Ongoing	LegislationPolicies	1.2 1.1 1.3 2.1 3.1

Governance and Leadership GL Goal : Foster Governance, Leadership and Partnerships for Climate Action							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
GL8	Support County Wexford in achieving climate action targets for the built environment by enabling access to training for the required skills for the green workforce, through the High Performance Building Alliance's (HPBA) network and partners	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Number of Training events b) Number of attendees	**Local Enterprise Office** **High Performance Building Alliance** Waterford Wexford Education and Training Board SEAI Skillnet	Ongoing	Businesses see the value in attending training, numbers reflect positive engagement	5.3 5.6 4.4
GL9	Promote & incorporate Climate Action Awareness and Energy Awareness and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with: a) training all new and existing staff within Wexford County Council b) with the people of Wexford	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Staff awareness induction course developed b) Record of number of staff induction training on climate and awareness events c) Number of SDG events/ initiatives held d) Number of groups within organisation where climate action is included on agenda	**All Sections within Wexford County Council** People of Wexford PPN	Ongoing	Resources	1.2 1.3 4.2

Governance and Leadership GL Goal : Foster Governance, Leadership and Partnerships for Climate Action							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
GL10	In line with Strategic Objective 2 of the South east Regional Enterprise Plan 2024, continue the work to establish the South East as a leader in Off-shore renewable Energy whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effect	Adaptation & Mitigation	Establishment of a South East Renewable Energy Hub	**Local Enterprise Office** High Performance Building Alliance Harbour Section - Environment	2029	Participation rates on programmes.	5.2 3.4 1.4 5.3 5.5 6.2
GL11	Design a process to facilitate staff to submit and share media files when responding to emergencies and extreme events	Adaptation & Mitigation	Set up link to Digital Asset Management System for Major Emergency Team/ Climate Action Team to upload footage and images of weather/climate events	**ICT**, Major Emergency Team, All operational sections of Wexford County Council	2024/2025	Training relevant staff on how to use the system to get content and how to share it out	3.1 1.5
GL12	Identify research and collaborative opportunities with third level institutes on climate & sustainability projects/initiatives e.g. SETU and Maynooth University or citizen science projects	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of projects with 3rd level institutional engagement	**Climate Action Team** PPN 3rd Level Institutions	Annual	Funding. Participation commitment from third level institutions Public Engagement.	1.3

Governance and Leadership GL Goal : Foster Governance, Leadership and Partnerships for Climate Action							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
GL13	Put a process in place to promote the collaboration of Wexford County Council with other agencies (such as Teagasc, LAWPRO, TII, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, National Parks and Wildlife Service etc.) on environmental incidents received that are outside the remit of Wexford County Council.	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Process agreed for reporting b) Number of referrals to/ from agencies	**Environment Section, Wexford County Council** **Lawpro** **National Parks and Wildlife Service** **Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine** **Teagasc** **Other pertinent Government Agencies**	2025	Buy in from government departments	1.5 2.3 3.2 1.4
GL14	To prepare a Climate Proofing Matrix to be submitted with planning applications to allow the proposed development to demonstrate how it incorporates climate mitigation and adaptation, where relevant	Adaptation & Mitigation	To prepare a Climate Proofing Matrix	**Planning Department Wexford County Council**	2025	Resources to prepare the matrix	3.5 1.5
GL15	Continue to progress the paperless strategy of Wexford County Council	Mitigation	Number of processes changed and decreases in physical drop off of forms therefore saving emissions	**HR** **All operational Wexford County Council**	Ongoing	Technology Legislation	2.1 2.2

Built Environment and Transport

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET1	Identification and completion of energy efficiency and upgrade projects related to council facilities as identified in the Pathfinder Energy Register of Opportunities and other funding streams having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.	Mitigation	a) Completion of projects identified from the Register of Opportunities. b) Tracking of glide path from Monitoring and Reporting System, to monitor our Gap to Target for energy and GHG reduction. c) Number of OPW "Reduce your use" campaign events promoted.	**Climate Action Team** SEEA SEAI Finance Property Facilities Management	Ongoing	Funding availability Staff Resources	2.1 2.2 2.3 6.3
BET2	Continue to work with Office of Public Works Flood Defence section to progress all County Wexford Flood Relief Schemes e.g. Wexford Town, Enniscorthy and Rosslare Strand, having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value	Adaptation	Phase of Flood Relief Scheme commenced completed (including planning/reporting phases)	**Special Projects OPW Environment Section**	Ongoing	Office of Public Works funding availability Planning/ Environmental Approval	3.2

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET3	Reduce WCC fossil fuel emissions across the Councils fleet through: a) Maximizing the EV fleet and continuing to upgrade existing older fleet to modern efficient vehicles. b) Assessing the feasibility of moving to renewable or low emission fuels for fleet vehicles and marine vessels and piloting the roll out of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel c) Promote & encourage fuel saving measures such as eco driving & speed limiters, etc d) Increase the tonnage carrying capacity of fleet lorries which will reduce the number of trips. Quantify and verify the GHG emission reductions achieved by adopting this action whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for electric vehicles	Mitigation	a) Number of Electric Vehicles purchased per year b) Trial the running of fleet vehicles (Diesel) on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil & monitor the reliable source of HVO c) Number of training events d) Number of participants e) Relative number of lorry trips before vs after increase in tonnage capacity	**Machinery Yard** Environment Department	2029	Funding availability. Installation of HVO tank. Market availability of fleet lorries.	2.1 2.2 3.5

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET4	Maximise Wexford County Council's delivery of upgraded properties under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme in line with department targets, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations	Mitigation	Number of upgrades of Social Housing in line with Department targets per annum.	**Housing** Climate Action Team	2029	Departmental funding continuing for the scheme	2.1 6.3
BET5	Continue to support the roll out of the public lighting retrofit Programme while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity	Mitigation	a) Number and/or of Public Lighting retrofits completed b) CO_2 Savings	**Roads**	2027	Availability of contractors Funding availability	2.1
BET6	Preparation of the Wexford Town Local Transport Plan to inform the future planning of Wexford Town and to inform the preparation of the Wexford Town Local Area Plan, whist ensuring this plan is: -Designed to mitigate potential environmental impacts associated with supported active travel infrastructure. -Support the carrying out of environmental/biodiversity enhancement during the active travel development process	Mitigation	An adopted plan which will guide the transport requirements for future development	**Roads** **Planning** PPN	2029	Funding availability	1.1 1.3 3.3

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET7	Revise & update Wexford County Council Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy to take account of national guidance and work with ZEVI to facilitate the EV Charging Infrastructure within the public realm of County Wexford for Cars, buses & coaches having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage	Mitigation	Completion of revised Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for County Wexford in line with Department of Transport National Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022 – 2025	**Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland.** Roads	2026	Staff resources Grid capacity	1.2 2.1
BET8	Work with Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management Programme to prioritise projects to reduce flood risk and provide for detailed mapping of areas prone to fluvial and tidal flood risk. The National Indicative Fluvial Mapping (NIFM) and the National Coastal Hazard Flood Mapping are published and will help inform the implementation of this plan having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value	Adaptation	Baseline audit undertaken and comparison audits undertaken on annual basis	**Executive Team** LAWPRO Roads Planning Environment OPW	Ongoing	Funding availability Staff resourcing and availability of consultants to prepare the mapping.	3.4 3.3

Built Environment and Transport **BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport**							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET9	Support the roll out Active travel initiatives and promote a modal shift to more sustainable travel through: a) Pathfinder projects - 3 interconnecting schemes - Newtown Road, Beech Lawns/ Clonard and Roxborough, Wexford Town. b) Safer Routes to schools' schemes across County Wexford. Twenty-six schools in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and An Taisce. c) Installation of segregated cycle path and footpath as part of Oaklands to Kents Cross New Ross Active Travel Scheme having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage	Mitigation	a) Completion of circa 18km of segregated cycle and footpaths b) Increase in walking and cycling to school in schools in County Wexford c) Number of schools with enhanced front of school safety works discouraging car use at the school gates	**Active Travel Team** **Roads** **National Transport Authority** Schools	Ongoing	Funding availability	2.1 4.3

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET10	Promote walking and cycling programmes through the Active Travel Team, Sports Active Team and increase the availability of outdoor recreation throughout the county through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage	Mitigation	a) Prepare Outdoor Recreation Plan for the County b) Number & Type of outdoor facilities c) Percentage increase in walking routes	**Environment** Community Section Wexford Local Development Local Groups	Ongoing	Appoint Outdoor Recreation Officer Appoint a Rural Recreation Officer Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme grants Prepare Outdoor Recreation Strategy for County Wexford	4.3 3.5 4.6
BET11	Roll out of ebike public bike sharing scheme in other areas within the County having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.	Mitigation	a) Number of towns and locations for ebikes b) Number of Km travelled using ebikes c) Amount of CO_2 saved	**Roads** **ebike providers** **Municipal Districts**	2029	OPW Funding Planning/ Environmental Approval	2.1 5.2 3.5 4.6

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET12	Develop New Designed Road Schemes (that involves more than resurfacing) by securing specific improvement grants that encompass urban realm planned improvements, such as natural drainage, cycle tracks, green spaces, led lights, restricting cars etc. having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage	Mitigation	Number of schemes developed that incorporate climate related urban realm improvements	**Roads**	Ongoing	Allocation of funding	1.2 2.2
BET13	Develop projects to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures using exemplar retrofitting projects and carbon budgets to demonstrate climate value having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Number of projects developed b) Type of retrofitting employed	**Heritage Officer**	2029	Funding availability	3.2 2.3 4.6

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET14	Facilitate and support the use and occupation of vacant housing stock through the administration of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant under the Government of Ireland Housing for All Plan (Croí Cónaithe) having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures	Mitigation	a) Record the number of grant applications. b) Record the Number of vacant houses reoccupied within Croí Cónaithe	**Housing Planning Regeneration Office**	Ongoing	Funding availability	2.1 6.1 6.2 6.3
BET15	Carry out Climate Risk assessment of historic sites and structures and build climate resilience of archaeological and architectural heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as at the Built Heritage Scheme, Historic Towns Initiative, Irish Walled Towns Network, Community Monuments Fund and Historic Structures Fund having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species	Adaptation	a) Number of Risk Assessments completed b) Record of the number of applications made through the various funding schemes that have a climate related element. c) Number of projects which have been approved funding with climate related element	**Heritage Officer Planning**	Ongoing	Funding Approval through grants/ schemes	3.2

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET16	Roll out of the Smarter Travel Pathfinder Programme to encourage employees, students & visitors to walk, cycle, use public transport, carpool, or reduce trips though 'smarter working'	Mitigation	Register of smarter measures in place in Wexford County Council	**Roads**	2025	Dept Approval Staff buy in Funding availability	1.3 2.3 3.2 4.6
BET17	Promote reuse/repurposing of existing buildings rather than the construction of new buildings through various funding streams including Urban Regeneration Development Fund and Rural Regeneration Development Fund e.g. New Ross Enterprise Centre and Gorey Market House having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species	Mitigation	Register of buildings reused/ repurposed	**Special Projects**	2029	Funding availability Approval by stakeholders Available staff resources within Special Projects	2.1 3.2

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET18	Continue to progress the roll out of an integrated network of Greenways, Blueways and key trails within County Wexford and across the South East Region having due regard to opportunities to enhance tourism, recreation and cultural heritage value associated with the route, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, and cultural heritage related sensitivities	Mitigation	a) Progress on stages of Greenways/Blueways/ Trails developed b) Number of people who use greenways to commute to work(for projects fully completed) c) Amount of GHG emissions reduced by modal shift for work related purposes	**Special Projects** Climate Action team SEEA	Ongoing	Funding availability Available staff resources/ consultants within Special Projects Relevant permit/ permissions Project completed by 2029	2.1 5.2
BET19	Engage with Rosslare Europort stakeholders to progress the development of Rosslare as a renewable energy hub having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage	Mitigation	Progress on Renewable Energy Hub through various stages of planning, funding and delivery	**Iarnród Eireann** Wexford County Council Rosslare Municipal District	Ongoing	Stakeholder availability	3.4 5.2 5.6

Built Environment and Transport **BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport**							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET20	Through the planning process, promote the target of 100% electricity consumption in the county from renewable sources by 2027 where it is confirmed through appropriate environmental assessment that associated renewable energy development will not have any significant environmental effect	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of and output of renewable energy developments permitted and connected	**Planning** **Utility Companies**	2027	Number of planning applications of this type granted by the Planning Authority and connected to the grid	2.1 4.4 1.4 3.4 3.5
BET21	Incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) in proposed designs in Wexford County Council. Raise awareness and provide training to staff ensuring all Sustainable Urban Drainage System related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects	Mitigation	a) Production of a SUDs specification for use within WCC b) Integration of SUDs in all suitable schemes and projects to deal with surface water runoff c) Utilise run off to provide water for newly planted Sustainable Urban Drainage System area providing for more greening in the urban environment	**Special Projects** **Planning** **Environment** **Housing** **Planning** **Department** **Roads** **Department**	Ongoing	Funding availability	3.2 3.3 3.5

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET22	Implement Gully Management Programme and seek innovative solutions to use technology to maximise the use of limited resources by monitoring gullies, especially in high-risk flood areas	Adaptation	a) Measurement of reduction in floods due to Gully management b) Number of gullies captured on digital mapping system c) Pilot programme on gully monitoring technologies	**Roads** **Municipal Districts**	2026	Funding availability Staff Resources	3.2 3.5
BET23	In accordance with the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, and all future Local Area Plans/Settlement Plans, require the provision of electric vehicle charging point infrastructure in residential, commercial and mixed-use developments having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality and cultural heritage	Mitigation	This requirement will be implemented through Planning Applications. All relevant Planning Applications will be required to meet the standards in the County Development Plan.	**Planning Section** Roads Municipal Districts	Ongoing	Number of planning applications received Grid capacity	3.5 3.4 3.2

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET24	Support and facilitate transport providers in delivering appropriate improvements in the bus and rail services to improved connectivity for Wexford, in particular those identified for the South east region and Wexford as outlined in the Department of Transport and Department for Infrastructure All-Island Strategic Rail Review whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects	Mitigation	a) Increase in services and improvements to the rail network by Iarnród Eireann b) Increase in bus services by Wexford Bus, Local Link and Bus Eireann	**Iarnród Eireann** **Bus Eireann** **Wexford Bus** **Local Link** Wexford County Council	Ongoing	Stakeholder availability	3.4 2.1
BET25	Increase the reuse of material when surface dressing as a replacement for raw materials	Mitigation	Record tonnes per year	**Roads**	Ongoing	Staff awareness Consultant awareness Funding availability	2.1 2.2
BET26	Planned maintenance programme to include the replacement of poor performing windows and doors in Wexford County Council's existing housing stock	Mitigation	50 Properties per year	**Housing Climate Action Team**	Ongoing	Internal funding being provided to cover the scheme	2.1 3.5

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET27	All prelets carried out by Wexford County Council to include the installation of LED bulbs to improve energy efficiency in the home	Mitigation	Record the number of houses upgraded with LED bulbs	Housing	Ongoing	Funding availability	2.1 3.5 6.1 6.2
BET28	Take steps to reduce IT equipment energy consumption, via energy savings awareness among staff and automatic shutdown of computers on the network	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of IT energy awareness initiatives	**ICT** **Energy Officer** All Departments	Ongoing	Staff switching off screens when not in use, at desks and in meeting rooms	2.1 3.5 2.2
BET29	Develop a Sustainable Community Proofing Index to generate a score for the proposed site designs to evaluate the environmental and social appropriateness for new social housing schemes	Mitigation	Development of the proofing Index	**Housing** Capital	2025	Funding source for third party review and guidance regarding best practice.	3.2 1.5 4.1
BET30	Replace all network equipment (Switches, Routers, Hubs) with most energy efficient models on the market whilst ensuring WEEE generated as a result of this action is appropriately managed	Adaptation & Mitigation	% Reduction in energy usage from IT equipment	**ICT**	2024/2025	Outages/Downtime agreed with each site alu clad doors	2.1 2.2
BET31	Energy Awareness programme to be run with social housing tenants in relation to energy efficiency measures in the home and correct use of heat pumps (as appropriate) and investigate the possibility of Energy Awareness award system	Mitigation	Number of persons who have completed Energy awareness programme	**Housing** Climate Action Team	Ongoing	Funding availability Staff resources	4.2 4.1 5.1 4.4

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
BET32	Liaise with the ESB Networks to examine the potential of exporting electricity generated from renewables to the grid, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects	Mitigation	Report on the potential for export of power to the grid	**Climate Action Team** ESB Network	2025	ESB willingness to engage	4.4

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
NEGI 1	Ensure impacts of climate change and sea level rise are considered for developments in the coastal zone	Adaptation	Number of developments in areas at risk where the impact of sea level change is considered	**Environment** Special Projects Planning	Ongoing	Resourcing Funding availability	3.1 3.2
NEGI 2	Wexford County Council will develop and progress suitable coastal protection measures, as identified through the monitoring and inspection programmes for vulnerable areas of coast and existing public coastal defences subject to funding, statutory consent and national policies and guidelines, including schemes such as Rosslare, Courtown and Seaview 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, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value	Adaptation	a) Number of cost benefit analyses complete. b) Number of schemes approved c) Number of schemes completed. d) Number of baseline surveys of effected areas e) Number of follow up survey of effected areas f) Number of ongoing surveys to check impact	**Environment** Special Projects Office of Public Works	Ongoing	Funding availability	3.2 3.3

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
NEGI 3	Undertake a Monitoring and Maintenance programme on existing public coastal defences and develop suitable protection measures, having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value	Adaptation	a) Baseline audit undertaken b) Comparison audits undertaken on annual basis	**Environment** Roads	Ongoing	Cooperation of staff Funding availability	3.2 6.1 1.5
NEGI 4	Preparation of a Rainwater Management Plan using nature-based solutions as part of the Wexford Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030 and consider this for other future Local Area Plans	Adaptation and Mitigation	Adoption of the Local Area Plan with a Rainwater Management Plan incorporating nature-based solutions	**Planning** Roads Water Services Municipal Districts	2024/2025	Availability of consultants to prepare the Rainwater Management Plan	3.3 3.1
NEGI 5	To identify, protect and manage green infrastructure in future local area plans having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value	Adaptation	Existing green infrastructure mapped, and proposed green infrastructure and connections identified and adopted as part of a new local area plan.	**Planning**	Ongoing	Staff resources to prepare the Local Area Plans Availability of consultants (and stakeholders) to assist with the mapping of existing green infrastructure	3.3 4.5

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
NEGI 6	Review all Non-Uisce Eireann Wastewater sites operated by Wexford County Council for stormwater infiltration issues in order to reduce the impact of flooding at Wastewater TP as a result of increased rainfall and carry out resolution works to separate stormwater from the foul wastewater systems at non-Uisce Eireann sites in order to reduce pollution as a result of rainfall events having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value	Adaptation	a) Number of plants surveyed as percentage of total plants b) Number of sites resolved as percentage of total problematic sites	**Water Services** Roads	2025	Staff resourcing Funding availability	3.2 5.4

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
NEGI 7	Review of existing Biodiversity Action Plan and update to reflect new priorities and risks associated with climate change along with resourcing and implementing relevant climate actions of the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 -2030	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Reviewed biodiversity plan in place with updated priorities b) Record number and status of actions from the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 -2030 c) Invasive Species Mapping (coastal & inland) d) Number of sites mapped, where control measures were undertaken e) Complete a policy for hedgerow and tree management	**Environment,** Heritage Council	2026, 2027	Funding availability Data currency. Resources to produce and implement management plan. Appointment of Biodiversity Officer. Funding. Availability of ecological expertise	1.5 3.2 3.4
NEGI 8	Explore feasibility of expanding the early warning river water level alert currently in place to all flood risk areas in the County to enhance resilience	Adaptation	Number of additional rivers with early warning alerts installed	**Environment** Office of Public Works Environmental Protection Agency	2025	Funding availability	3.1 1.5

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
NEGI 9	Implement the objectives outlined in Section 12.8 of Volume 1 Written Statement of the Wexford County Development Plan to restrict development outside the boundaries of existing coastal settlements to that which is required to be located in that particular location, and direct new housing away from areas prone to flooding/ coastal erosion and require new planning applications for housing to show climate change adaptation has been considered in the siting, layout and design of the proposal in accordance with the County Development Plan	Adaptation	Number of planning applications that include climate change mitigation/ adaptation measures	Environment Planning	Ongoing	Resources to prepare the matrix.	3.5
NEGI 10	Implement Chapter 12 Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning in Volume 1 of the County Development Plan. Ensure collaborations with Waterford and Wicklow County Councils in relation to integrated Coastal Zone management 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, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value.	Mitigation	a) Number of collaborative meetings held with Waterford & Wicklow County Councils. b) Track ongoing management of coastal zone including length of coastline surveyed.	**Climate Action Team** SEEA SEAI Finance Property Facilities Management	Ongoing	Funding availability Staff Resources	2.1 2.2 2.3 6.3

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
NEGI 11	Ensure the protection and improvement of water quality in County Wexford (through the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan and Local Authority Waters Programme) takes account of climate change and the associated impacts on water quality status.	Adaptation	a) % or Number of waterbodies with Improvement in Water Quality Status b) Number of sampling sites	**Environment** Local Authority Waters Programme	Ongoing	Resources	3.1 3.3
NEGI 12	Work through the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme to improve access to public water services to reduce pollution and vulnerability to water scarcity as a result of climate change having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.	Adaptation	Strategic Plan for Rural Water complete	**Water Services**	2026	Staff Resourcing Funding availability Strategic Planning	3.1 1.5

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
NEGI 13	Assessment of Wexford County Council owned land to identify areas suitable for restoration and enhanced carbon storage though tree-planting and biodiversity measures.	Adaptation & Mitigation	Register of land suitable for restoration	**Property Management Unit** Wexford County Council	2025	Property Management Unit resource availability	3.3 1.5
NEGI 14	Ensure the protection and quality of bathing waters in County Wexford by continuing to implement the bathing water programme of sampling and testing before and during the bathing water season	Adaptation	Compliance with the Bathing water regulations via Bathing water sampling and testing results	**Environment** Waterford County Council Wicklow County Council	Ongoing	Cooperation of staff Funding availability	3.1 1.5 3.3
NEGI 15	Through the planning process, implement a minimum requirement of 20% of the area of a rural site, for a single house, to be set aside for additional tree planting and biodiversity measures in accordance with the County Development Plan	Adaptation & Mitigation	This requirement will be implemented as a condition of planning permission on 100% of planning application for single houses in rural areas.	Planning	On-going during the assessment of relevant planning applications	Planning enforcement resources	3.5 1.5 3.3
NEGI 16	Promote climate action projects that support and protect habitats such as wetlands and flood zones which contribute to green infrastructure having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.	Adaptation & Mitigation	Register of Projects	**Biodiversity Officer** **Climate Action Team** Special Projects Environment Section	2025	Funding availability Staff Resources	3.1 3.3 3.5

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
NEGI 17	Ensure the protection and quality of all surface, ground and coastal waters in County Wexford by continuing to implement the National Agricultural Inspection Plan while ensuring sustainable transport modes are used to travel to and from inspection sies, where feasible.	Adaptation	Number of farm inspections in line with EU Water Framework Directive 3rd cycle data	**Environment**	Ongoing	Cooperation of staff Funding availability	3.1 1.5
NEGI 18	Promote Water Conservation in the community and businesses by liaising with Uisce Eireann Stewardship programme and the Local Enterprise Office as well a Public Participation Network.	Adaptation	Number of trainees attending Stewardship events	**Water Services** Local Enterprise Office PPN	2025	Staff resourcing Uisce Eireann Stewardship Team	4.5 1.4
NEGI 19	Liaise & collaborate with Teagasc and other advisors to influence and advocate towards more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices including signpost programmes and Forestry Schemes.	Adaptation	a) Number of people signed up for Teagasc Signpost programme b) Number of people attending farming sustainability events	**Teagasc** Environment Uisce Éireann	2024 - 2029	Availability of resources	3.1 1.4
NEGI 20	Increase awareness on the technologies available and promote the change in fertiliser type & technique within County Wexford that aid reduction in carbon emissions on farms	Adaptation	Number of farmers engaged in the change in practice	**Teagasc** **Environment** Fertiliser suppliers Uisce Éireann	2024	Availability of resources	1.5 4.4 5.5

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
NEGI 21	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	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of events	**Environment** Farmers PPN Uisce Éireann	2025	Cooperation of LA staff, Funding availability	4.5 4.4 5.5
NEGI 22	Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of projects identified for soil improvement	**DAFM** **Teagasc** **EPA** **Farmers** **Environment**	2025	Funding availability Buy-in from farmers	3.7 3.8 3.9 5.4
NEGI 23	Provide expert advice on biodiversity and encourage native planting on farmland within County Wexford	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of awareness events	**Environment** **Biodiversity Officer** **Farmers**	2025	Cooperation of staff Funding availability	3.2 3.3

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
NEGI 24	Continue to support measures to protect and enhance beaches in the county to retain the blue flag status and green coast award and identify where possible additional beaches for inclusion	Adaptation	a) Number of Blue flag beaches & Green Coast awards b) Number of beach inspections c) Report on Water sampling and testing	**Environment** Waterford County Council Wicklow County Council	Ongoing	Cooperation of staff Funding availability	3.1 1.1
NEGI 25	Promote the "Leave no Trace" scheme in place for beaches and natural environment to increase awareness and promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships	Adaptation	Number of beach inspections	**Environment** An Taisce Clean Coast Groups PPN	Ongoing	Cooperation of staff Funding availability	4.5 1.1
NEGI 26	Support and encourage communities to plant native trees through awareness, and Trees for Wexford Campaign	Mitigation	Percentage increase in native tree planting for communities over the duration of CAP	**Environment**	Ongoing	Funding availability Staff resources	3.3 1.1
NEGI 27	Roll out tenant awareness programme to include and promote biodiversity/ pollinator awareness and encourage and support engagement of residents in local led community action through a resident's award system	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Number of tenants who sign up to the awareness programme or completed it b) Number of entrants in the biodiversity award	**Housing** Climate Action Team	Ongoing	Dependant on the event being run annually	4.3 1.1 3.3

Communities, Resilience & Transition

Communities, Resilience & Transition CRT Goal: Mobilise Climate Action, increase resilience and a just transition in Local Communities							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
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	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Number of funding applications made b) Number of funding applications approved c) Number projects completed (CCAP) d) Number of communities engaged in climate action (Community Section)	**Environment** Community Groups PPN	2025 for CCAP Ongoing for other funding programmes	Participation rates of Community Groups Funding availability	4.3 4.1 1.1
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	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Number of events held annually over the Climate Action Plan. b) Number of "new skills for life" programmes run by the five branch libraries. c) Number of participants in the "Skills for Life" programme	Library Service Healthy Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme Department of Rural and Community Development LGMA Local Development Unit Climate Action Regional Office SEEA & SEAI Community Groups SETU Departments of Education, Finance, Housing, Social Protection, Further and Higher Education Research Science and Innovation Office of the Government Chief Information Officer Media Literacy Ireland SOLAS Age Friendly Ireland PPN	2024 - 2027	Stakeholder buy-in. Funding availability. Staffing resources Partner buy-in Youth involvement	4.2 4.5 1.1

Communities, Resilience & Transition CRT Goal: Mobilise Climate Action, increase resilience and a just transition in Local Communities							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
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	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of Energy Master Plans completed	**Environment** Community Groups PPN	Ongoing	Funding availability	4.3 1.1 3.4
CRT4	To expand the environment education schools programme to include climate literacy / climate action in particular engagement with secondary school students.	Mitigation	a) Number of schools engaged in climate literacy b) Number of workshops held c) Number of students participating	**Environment**	2025	Resources	4.2 3.4

Communities, Resilience & Transition CRT Goal: Mobilise Climate Action, increase resilience and a just transition in Local Communities							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
CRT5	Engage with communities and residents' association about the part they can play to combat climate change in their shared & individual gardens\allotments to support local food/vegetable production.	Mitigation	a) Number of awareness events with resident associations b) Completion of a community garden/allotment survey c) Percentage Increase in number of gardens/ allotments d) Number of entries in Keep Wexford Beautiful under the following categories 1.Best Community Environment Initiative 2.Best Community Project that tackles and reduces the impacts of Climate Change 3. Best Community Project to Improve Accessibility in Gardens/Parks	**Housing Environment** PPN	Ongoing	Resources Resident participation	4.2 4.1 3.3

Communities, Resilience & Transition CRT Goal: Mobilise Climate Action, increase resilience and a just transition in Local Communities							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
CRT6	Guided by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the GAA and County and City Management Association, towards working together on sustainability and climate action projects, engage with the Green Club Programme through a nominated lead, working with the Climate Action Regional Office and GAA clubs and to lobby at national level to expand the scheme to other national major sporting associations/bodies	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of GAA clubs signed up	**Climate Action Team** Climate Action Regional Office GAA	Ongoing	Number of participating clubs in the Programme	4.3 3.4
CRT7	Support the arts and culture sectors in raising awareness and promoting behaviour change on climate action, sustainability and the natural environment through the Wexford County Council Arts Plan and the Culture & Creativity Strategy and undertake research with artists collective 'Roots to the Future' and other local authorities to assess feasibility of hosting a national Climate Art Assembly in 2025	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of arts projects and interactions	**Arts Office** Creative Ireland Arts Council Sustainable Enniscorthy Creative Places Enniscorthy, Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme Presentation Arts Centre Enniscorthy	2027	Community commitment Funding availability	4.3 3.2 3.4
CRT8	Opening of the Enterprise Centre in Enniscorthy to encourage startups of enterprises in the sustainability sector and support innovation	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of new enterprises	**Local Enterprise Office** **High Performance Buildings Association** Economic Development	2025	Access to materials and contractors	5.2 4.3 6.2 6.1 4.3

Communities, Resilience & Transition CRT Goal: Mobilise Climate Action, increase resilience and a just transition in Local Communities							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
CRT9	Develop the green cluster in the South East by organising and hosting a regional sustainability awareness event with expert speakers and case studies	Mitigation	a) Number of Events b) Number attending at awareness events	**Local Enterprise Office** **SEDO** Wexford enterprise community	2025	Funding Availability Resources	5.2 6.1 4.3 3.4 5.3
CRT10	Convene bi-annual meetings with the Green Cluster to showcase innovative products and services designed to address climate actions.	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Number of new products/ services b) Number of showcase meetings held	**Local Enterprise Office** **High Performance Buildings Association** Econ Dev	Ongoing	Green Cluster members are proactive and willing to share	5.2 5.3
CRT11	Increase the number of Wexford businesses who have a documented sustainability plan by linking the drawdown of funds for priming and business expansion grants to the completion of the Local Enterprise Office Green for Micro Sustainability Programme	Mitigation	a) Number of funding applications b) Number of businesses completed micro sustainability	**Local Enterprise Office** **SEDO** Wexford enterprise community	2026	Funding Availability Resources	5.1 3.4
CRT12	Reduce emissions of Local Enterprise Office client enterprises in Wexford by assisting clients to improve productivity and efficiencies through the measurement of same using new productivity metrics outlined by Enterprise Ireland and implementation of lean manufacturing and digitalisation practices supported by Local Enterprise Office national programmes.	Mitigation	Measurement of Productivity metrics	**Local Enterprise Office** **SEDO** Wexford enterprise community	2025	Enterprise Buy in Funding availability	5.2 3.4 1.1

Communities, Resilience & Transition CRT Goal: Mobilise Climate Action, increase resilience and a just transition in Local Communities							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
CRT13	Promotion of the Rural Water programme in providing support to rural communities for private well grant improvements and Group Schemes having due regard for sensitive aspects of the receiving environment and mitigating against any potential negative effects on air quality, noise, water quality and soil during construction works carried out. whilst advocating and exerting influence and control, as appropriate, to ensure such projects are designed and planned properly and do not cause unintended negative environmental effects.	Adaptation	a) Number of well grants allocated b) Number of Communication campaigns carried out	**Water Services** Communications	Ongoing	Staff resourcing	4.3 3.4
CRT14	Collaborate with Uisce Eireann on initiatives to reduce water consumption in the enterprise community in County Wexford	Adaptation & Mitigation	Number of events/ promotions	**Local Enterprise Office** **SEDO** Uisce Eireann Wexford enterprise community	Ongoing	Community buyin Funding availability	5.1 3.4
CRT15	Explore and develop just transition opportunities, particularly in sectors vulnerable to the effects of climate mitigation and climate Adaptation such as skills training, and energy poverty reduction measures	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Number of supports for vulnerable groups. b) Number of people engaged.	**Community Section** DAFM LEO Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing	Community Engagement Resources	4.1 6.1 6.2 6.3

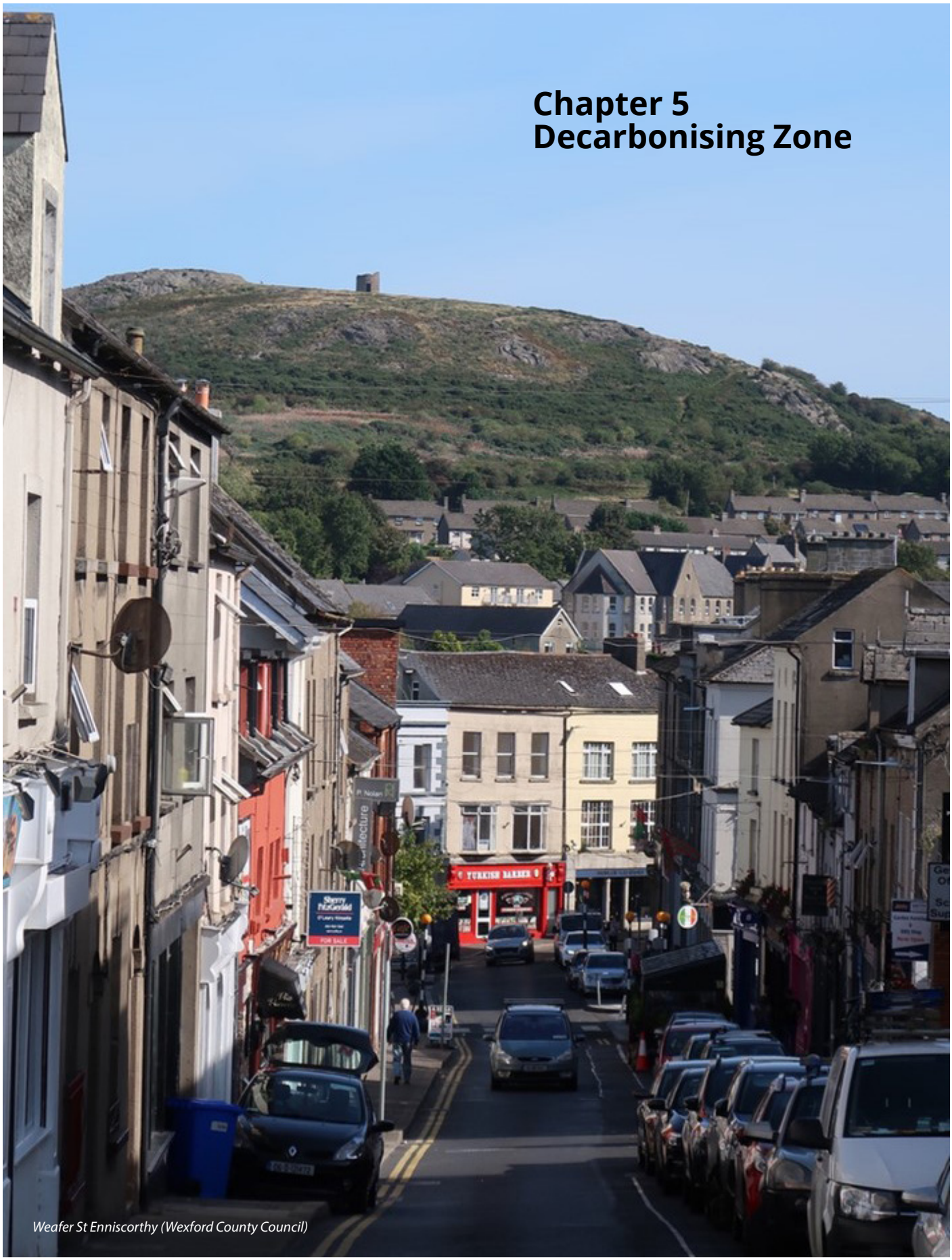
Sustainability and Resource Management

Sustainability & Resource Management SRM Goal: Create and enhance a culture of prevent, reduce, reuse, and recycle of resources to promote a circular economy							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
SRM1	Implement the National Waste Management Plan for the circular economy	Adaptation & Mitigation	a) Percentage reduction in household waste by 2030 b) Percentage of households with kerbside collection by 2030 c) 50% reduction in wood waste by 2030 d) 50% reduction in plastic & packaging by 2025 e) Restrict single use plastic by 2025 f) Percentage reduction in C&D waste to landfill by re-use g) Percentage re-use of textiles by 2030 h) 95% recovery of ELV's by 2030 i) Percentage recovery of WEEE by 2030 j) Percentage reduction of export of Hazardous waste by 2030 k) Percentage increase in reuse & repair outlets. l) Number of events of community engagement events to highlight the importance of segregation of food waste.	**Southern Waste Region** Environment PPN	Ongoing	National Initiatives Legislation. Resources	4.2 5.4
SRM2	Develop a green public procurement (GPP) strategy for Wexford County Council and promote the integration of green public procurement into all tender documents	Mitigation	a) Buy-in by staff throughout all business areas within Wexford County Council b) The increase in percentage of tenders including green public procurement c) Formation of GPP team with representative from each section to identify green criteria for inclusion in tenders d) Number of GPP staff awareness training	**Procurement Climate Action Team** Section Heads Training/HR	2025	Funding availability Buy-in by staff Resources	1.2

Sustainability & Resource Management SRM Goal: Create and enhance a culture of prevent, reduce, reuse, and recycle of resources to promote a circular economy							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
SRM3	Promotion of the Fleadh Ceoil in Wexford as a sustainable event, aiming to reduce single use plastics (where possible) and promoting sustainable travel through park & ride/active travel and encourage circular economy through awareness initiatives and apply lessons learned to future events	Mitigation	a) Sustainable event awareness programme b) Sustainable implementation plan	**Fleadh Committee** Fleadh Stakeholders Environment PPN	2024/2025	Buy-in from Committee Expertise and Resources	5.4 1.1 1.3
SRM4	Promote the concept of "circular sharing" of library materials and facilitate inclusive community climate action and climate resilience through the investment, provision and promotion of up-to-date reliable information	Mitigation	a) Percentage increase in book fund expenditure b) Increase in number of books and eResources borrowed in this area c) Increase in themed book displays across the branch library network	**Wexford County Council Library Service** Department of Rural and Community Development Local Government Management Agency Library Development Unit Codema Heritage Council PPN	2024- 2028	Book fund	4.2 5.4
SRM5	Implement a programme for greener library usage, including filtered water dispensers and segregated waste disposal in public and staff areas	Mitigation	a) Number of filtered water dispensers b) Number of Segregated waste Bins in public and staff areas of the five branch libraries	**Wexford County Council Library Service**	2024- 2027	Funding availability	3.2 5.4

Sustainability & Resource Management SRM Goal: Create and enhance a culture of prevent, reduce, reuse, and recycle of resources to promote a circular economy							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
SRM6	Build on existing "Library of Things" collections to support and enable circular living in our communities e.g., Pilot "Seed Library"	Mitigation	a) Increase in the quantity of items available to library members for loan b) Annual Increase in loans of “Library of Things” items	Wexford County Council Library Service DRCD LGMA Library Development Unit Codema Heritage Council	2024- 2027	Availability of funding Staffing resources Partner buy-in	4.3 4.5 5.4

Chapter 5
Decarbonising Zone



Weafer St Enniscorthy (Wexford County Council)

5 Decarbonising Zone (DZ)

5.1 Summary of Local Authority's DZ emissions profile

5.1.1 DZ Definition

A Decarbonising Zone (DZ) is a spatial area identified by the County Council in which the following are identified:

- a range of climate mitigation measures
- a range of climate adaptation measures
- biodiversity measures.

Action owners are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate needs to contribute to national targets.

5.1.2 DZ Selection

The identification of a DZ area was informed by the criteria set out by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in February 2021. Enniscorthy Urban Area was selected as the DZ for County Wexford following a shortlisting of potential candidate DZ's across the County.

South East Energy Agency were engaged by Wexford Council to assist with this shortlisting process. Five cross-departmental workshops were held along with representational input from Sustainable Energy Communities via the Public Participation Network structure and the various candidate areas were profiled. A scoring matrix was developed to allow shortlisting for 17 separate evaluation areas. Four main urban centres and six rural areas were identified during the shortlisting process and Enniscorthy Urban Area was selected as the preferred Decarbonisation Zone for County Wexford. This DZ requires an annual average reduction of 7% in carbon emissions to be achieved up to 2030, as is required for the rest of the county. There will be a focus on testing new technologies and working with communities within the DZ before rolling it out in other areas of the County, following lessons learned.

In this context, DZs are test beds to not only demonstrate what can be done and accelerate learning for other areas but also to help understand the scale of the challenge in decarbonising the economy and wider society.

At a practical level, DZs are a mechanism that harness a portfolio of actions, projects, technologies and interventions to deliver on the national climate objective at local level through responses that include mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity actions.

5.1.3 Decarbonisation Zone as Testbed

The national carbon reduction targets set out in the Irish Governmental "Climate Action Plan" are 51% reduction by 2030, compared to 2018 levels.

Wexford County Council is required, under Section 16 of the Climate Action Plan, to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan which includes a Decarbonisation Zone. The Climate Action Plan will outline the pathway for Wexford County Council to reduce its greenhouse gas Emissions by the required 51% by 2030.

The methodology used is in accordance with Technical Annex C: Climate Mitigation Assessment" and the SEAI/CODEMA supporting guidance document "Developing CO_2 Baselines A Step-by-Step Guide For Your Local Authority (2017)". These guidelines outline the Tier 3 approach to be taken in the development of the Baseline Emissions Inventory at local level for the Decarbonisation Zone. Tier 3 is the bottom-up spatial-led approach for data analysis, to look at local level greenhouse gases emissions across various sectors which include:

- Local Authority – Wexford County Council Decarbonisation Zone
- Commercial
- Residential
- Social Housing
- Transport
- Agriculture
- Waste & Wastewater.

The Tier 3 Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) outlines the greenhouse gas emissions data for the baseline year 2018, in order to establish the absolute greenhouse gases emissions target for 2030 for Enniscorthy Urban Area Decarbonisation Zone. Wexford County Council has full accountability and obligations to reduce its own greenhouse gases emissions by 51% by 2030, and can influence, co-ordinate, facilitate and advocate for all other sectors to reduce their own greenhouse gases emissions by the same 51% by 2030.

The data sets used for analysing the greenhouse gas emissions within the DZ were:

1. MapEIre (available per KM grids)
2. 2016 Census Small Area Population (Available per SAP IDs)
3. Census 2020 Agricultural data (available per Electoral Division).

There are two Electoral Divisions intersected by the DZ and there are 52 Small Area Populations (SAPs) within the DZ. There are twenty-seven 1Km grids linked to the DZ. The

total population within the DZ at time of identification was found to be 10,811 as per the Census 2016 Small Area Population data sets. This equates to 7.8% of the total population for County Wexford (2016). The total area of the Decarbonisation Zone is 11Km2. This equates to 0.5% of the total area of County Wexford.

5.2 Enniscorthy Urban Area Profile

Enniscorthy Urban Area is located in the centre of County Wexford, where the River Slaney runs through it. Enniscorthy Castle and St. Aidan's Cathedral are two historical buildings of note, that feature prominently in the town. The town is overlooked by Vinegar Hill, a famous battleground of the 1798 rebellion. St. Senan's, a monastic settlement building from the sixth century, is located on the eastern bank of the River Slaney. Enniscorthy Town is the second largest town in County Wexford and the Built-Up Area CSO 2022 census, identifies a population for Enniscorthy totalling 12,310 and an increase in population of 8%.

Some of the sectors involved in the economic activity within Enniscorthy Urban Area Decarbonisation Zone are transport, financial, construction, hospitality, health, engineering and technology.

Reimagining Enniscorthy Creative Arts Project - Seed hub (2022)

Enniscorthy Town has faced many challenges in recent years. The most critical has been a challenge to the viability of its economic base. Like so many other medium-sized towns in Ireland, the local economy has changed enormously in the last 30 years. A continued loss of jobs in the more traditional and established industrial and distribution sectors is not being compensated for through the development and growth of other sectors such as services, commerce and tourism. Unemployment has followed the decline of key sectors,

affecting some sections of the community in Enniscorthy more than others.

Enniscorthy's commercial core is centred on the historic town centre. The principal retail streets radiate out from Market Square. The retail offering comprises a mix of convenience and comparison shopping with independent retailers predominating. There is a contemporary supermarket/department store at Barrack Street, to the north of Market Square, which is the largest retail anchor in the town.

Cafes and restaurants are well established in the Town Centre, mainly serving day trade with two Hotels providing a range of services in the Town and a foundation for further services and tourism expansion.

Enniscorthy Urban Area has significantly higher levels of unemployment relative to the County and State. The unemployment rate, as expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the 2016 census, was at 27% in Enniscorthy. It has fallen to 24% according to the 2022 census. This is compared to 10% in County Wexford in 2022 compared with 17% in 2016.

HPBA Office Enniscorthy

ENNISCORTHY DECARBONISATION ZONE

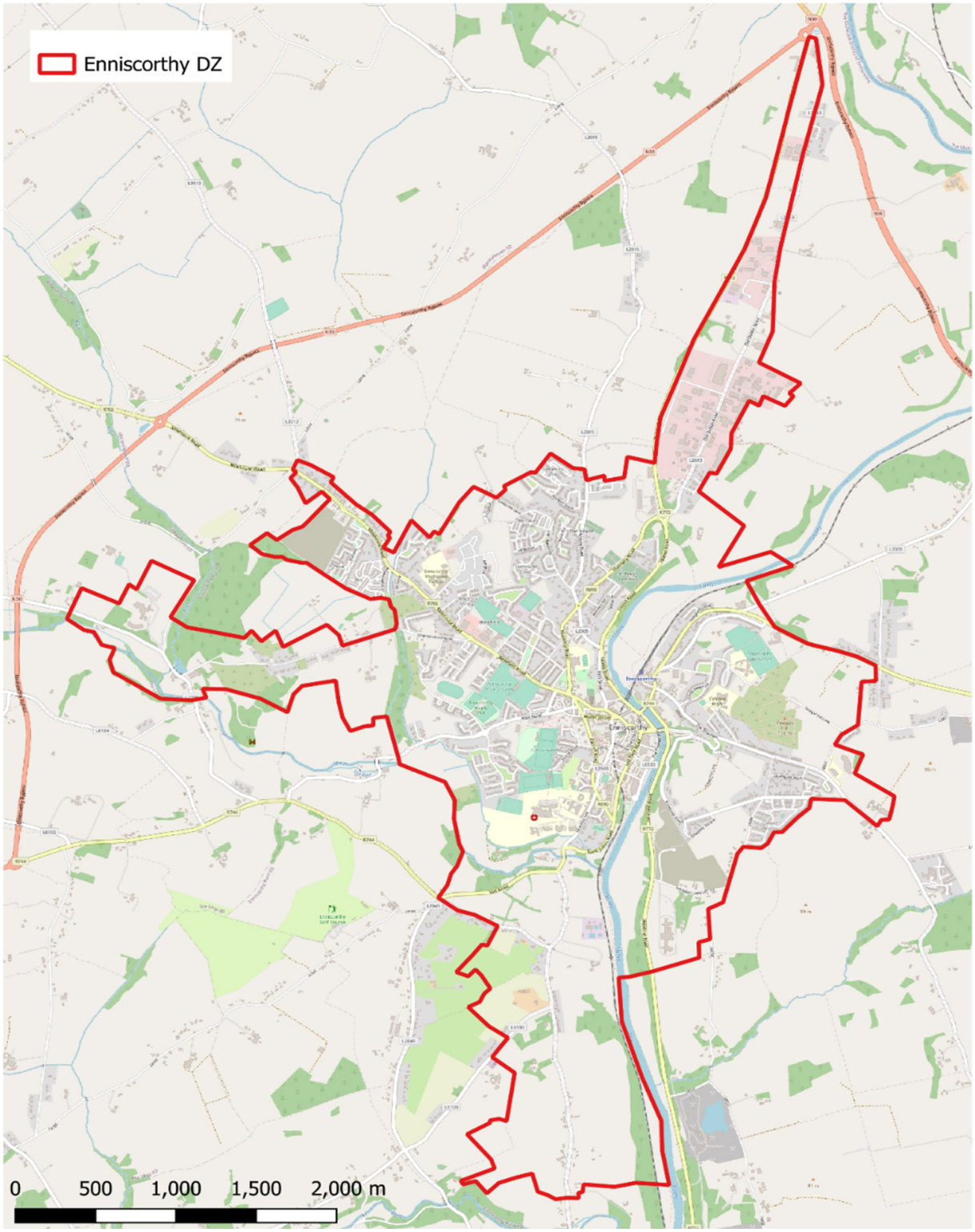


Figure 5.1: Spatial Extent of Enniscorthy Urban Area Decarbonisation Zone

5.3 Greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption per sector

In order to ascertain the greenhouse gas emissions per sector, the energy consumption has also been reported alongside the greenhouse gas data. Greenhouse gas is the energy data that is converted to CO_2eq. Greenhouse gas emissions for some sectors (where applicable). The breakdown of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption per sector (2018 baseline) within the Decarbonisation Zone, is shown in Table 5.1 and Figure 5.2.

Table 5.1: Breakdown of Greenhouse Gases emissions and energy consumption per sector within the DZ, 2018.

Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone	Total Energy (GWh)	Total GHG Emissions (ktCO2eq)
Wexford County Council	1.1	0.4
Commercial	116.6	30.3
Residential	58.1	18.6
Social Housing	9.6	3.3
Transport	116.9	30.8
Agriculture	0.1	2.2
Waste & Wastewater	-	1.4
Totals	**302.4**	**86.8**

The total baseline greenhouse gases emission for 2018 for Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone was **86.8 ktCO$_2$eq**. Therefore, the allowable greenhouse gases emissions in 2030 will be **42.5 ktCO$_2$eq**.

The total baseline greenhouse gases emission associated with Wexford County Council in 2018 for Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone was **0.4 ktCO$_2$eq**. Therefore, the allowable greenhouse gases emissions for Wexford County Council in 2030 will be **0.2 ktCO$_2$eq**

The baseline results indicate that the focus for Enniscorthy will require significant actions in the Transport, Commercial and Residential sectors to achieve the levels of decarbonisation required. Wexford County Council while directly responsible for achieving a 51% reduction in emissions, will also strive to advocate and influence the other sectors in achieving similar reductions.

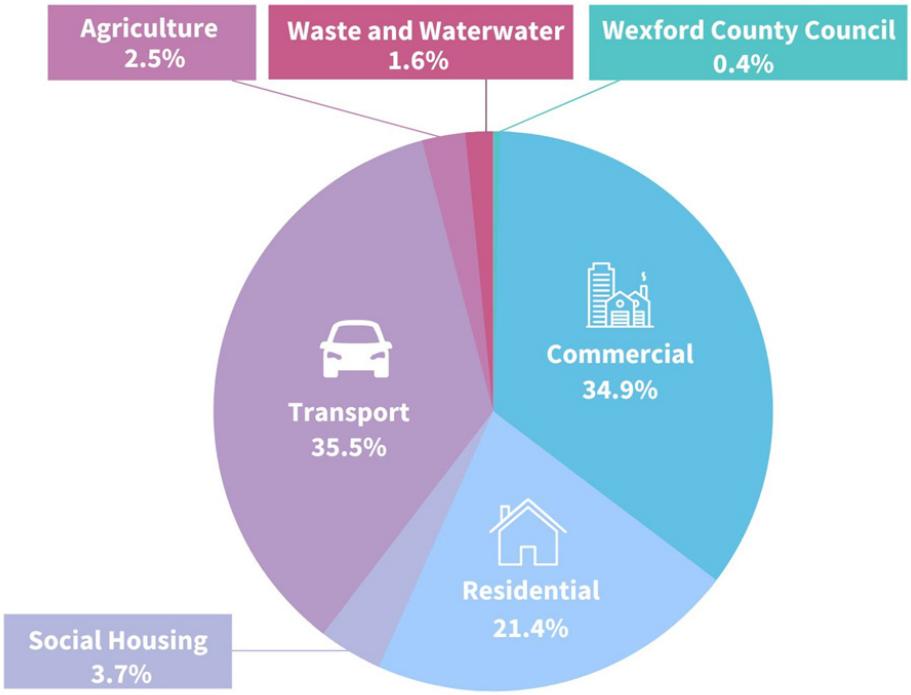


Figure 5.2: The total greenhouse gas emissions for Enniscorthy Urban Area DZ by sector type, 2018

5.3.1 Transport

It is estimated that approximately 7,200 mechanically propelled vehicles are within the area, with the breakdown of vehicles listed in Figure 5.3.

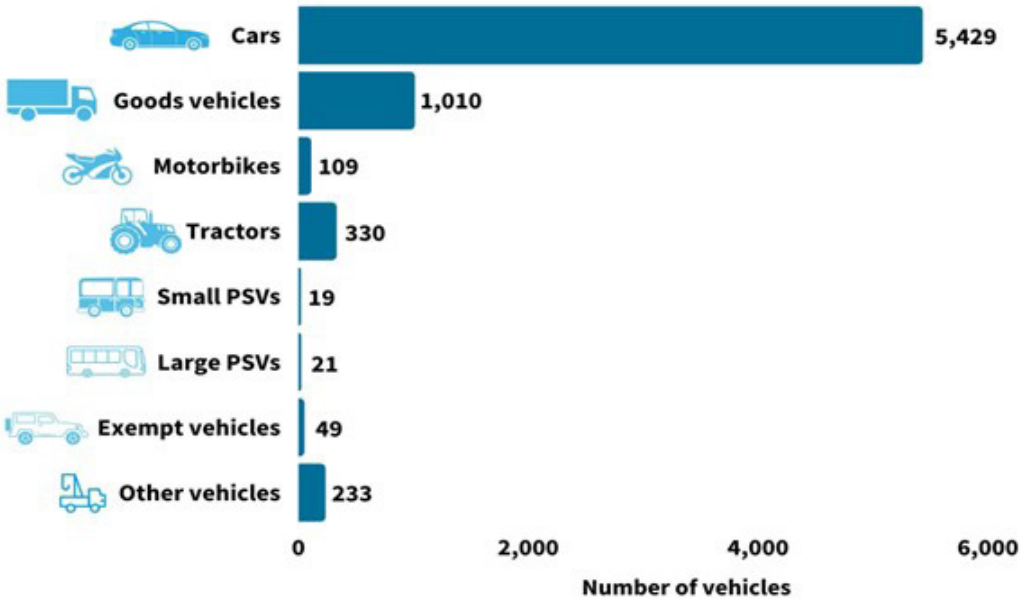


Figure 5.3: Number of vehicles by type in DZ, 2018

Total energy consumption by the Transport Sector within the Decarbonisation Zone use in 2018 was **116.9 GWh**

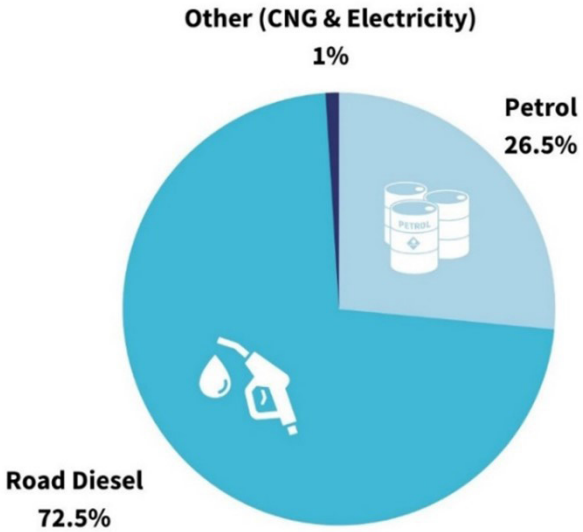


Figure 5.4 The breakdown of transport sector energy use by fuel type within the DZ, 2018.

The Transport sectors total emissions within the Decarbonisation Zone's amounted to **30.8 ktCO$_2$eq**. The breakdown of greenhouse gases emissions by vehicle type is displayed in Figure 5.5.

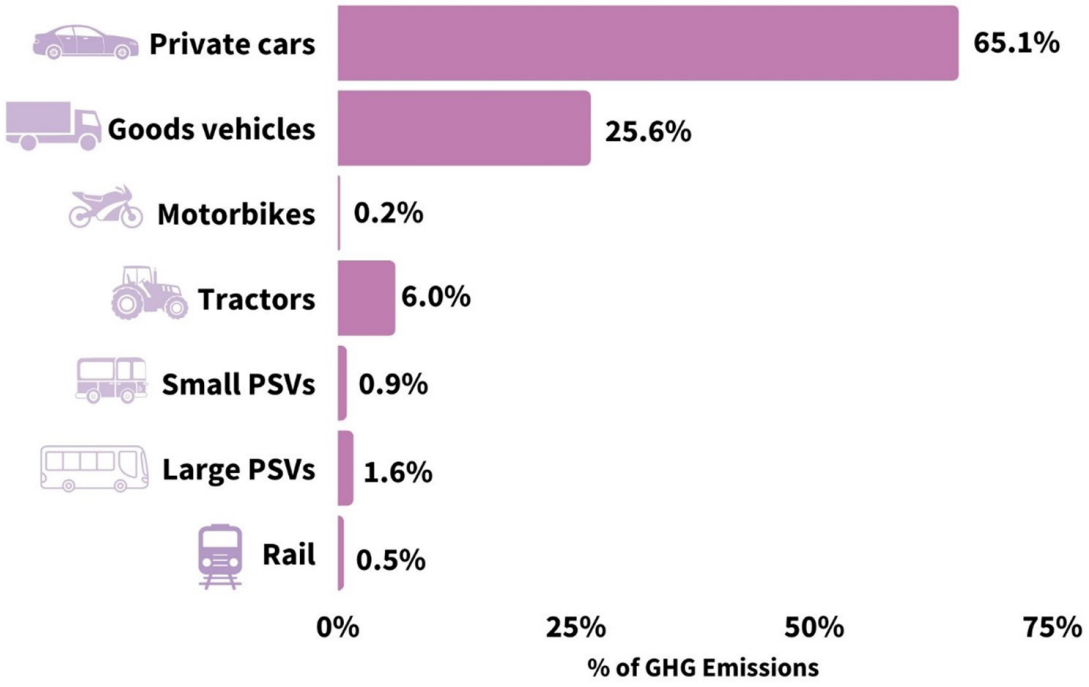


Figure 5.5: % Breakdown of greenhouse gases emissions by vehicle type in DZ, 2018

Public Transport is accounted for within the Small PSV's, Large PSV's and Rail sectors. There are several public transport routes within the DZ including rail and buses, both national and local. As outlined above there is a total of 40 public service vehicles (small and large), which equates to 0.6% of all mechanically propelled vehicles registered within the Enniscorthy DZ.

The public transport vehicles only contribute 3% of the greenhouse gas emissions within the DZ. The percentage share of public transport needs to increase in order to decrease emissions from other categories within the DZ area.

5.3.2 Commercial

When energy use was converted into greenhouse gases emissions, the Commercial sector within the Decarbonisation Zone's total emissions amounted to **30.3 ktCO$_2$eq**. The breakdown of commercial sector greenhouse gases emissions are outlined in Figure 5.6.

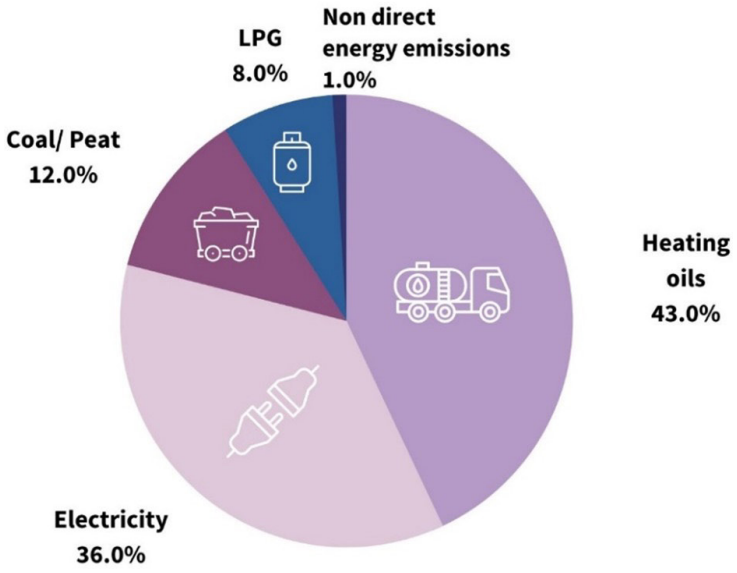


Figure 5.6: % Breakdown of Commercial sector greenhouse gases emissions in Decarbonisation Zone, 2018

The spatial areas that have the highest energy consumption and greenhouse gases emissions are illustrated in Figure 5.7.

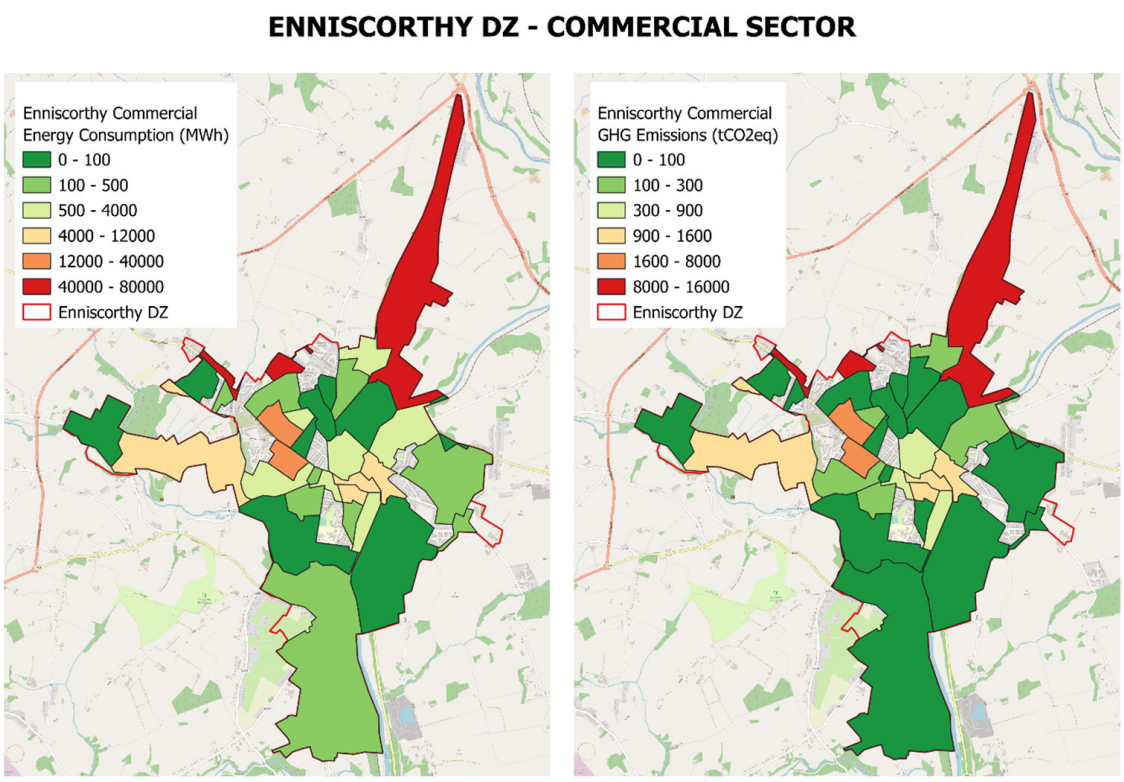


Figure 5.7. Energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas emissions by Commercial sector

5.3.3 Residential

The Census 2016 data shows that there are **4,101** residential properties in Enniscorthy DZ, broken down by house type – see figure 5.8

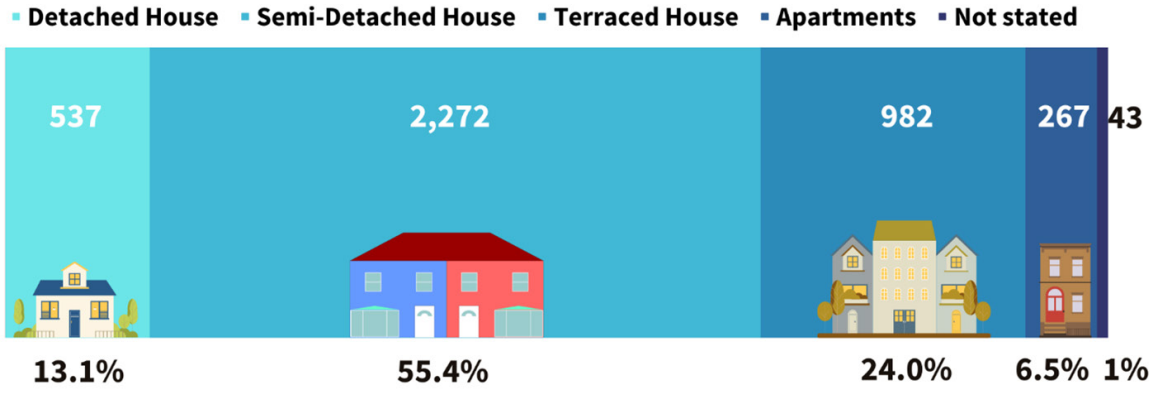


Figure 5.8: Typical accommodation patterns in Enniscorthy DZ, 2016

There was a total of 2,257 houses in the DZ area that had a BER completed. This equates to 55% of the total housing stock. The average BER rating identifies areas where the

residential average BER requires improvement (see Figure 5.9). The Local Authority owned Social Housing data was removed from the Residential Sector data and is reported separately.

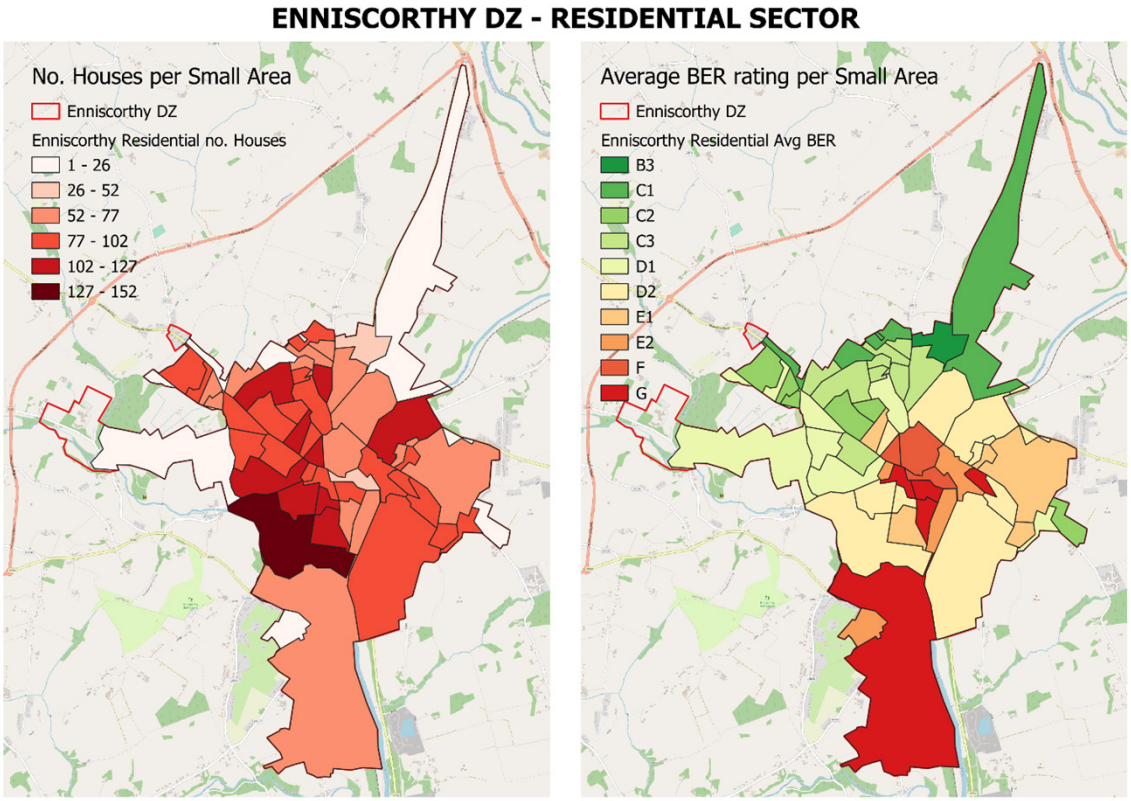


Figure 5.9: Residential Sector, Number of houses and average BER rating per Small Area

Total energy consumption by the Residential Sector within the Decarbonisation Zone use in 2018 was **58.1 GWh**. The breakdown of the energy consumption is illustrated in Figure 5.10.

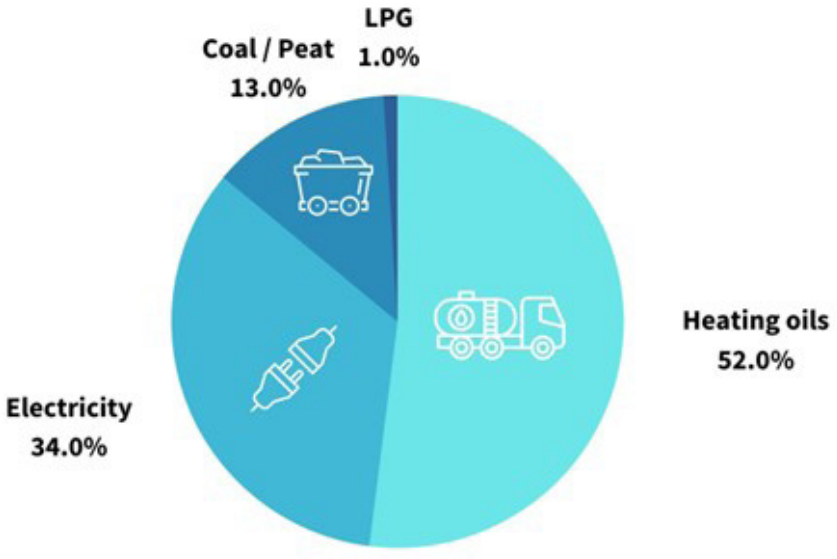


Figure 5.10: % Breakdown of residential sector energy use in DZ, 2018

When energy use was converted into greenhouse gas emissions, the residential sectors total emissions within the Decarbonisation Zone's amounted to **18.6 ktCO$_2$eq**. The breakdown of the residential greenhouse gas is illustrated in Figure 5.11.

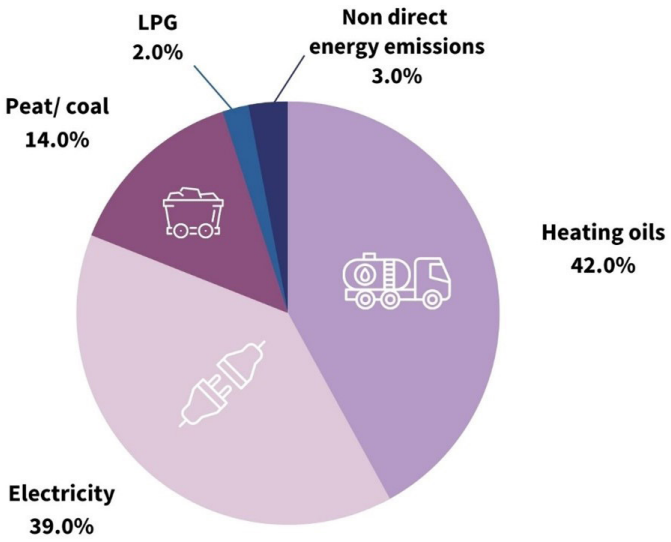


Figure 5.11: % Breakdown of residential sector greenhouse gas emissions in DZ, 2018

5.3.4 Social Housing

There was a total of **656** Local Authority owned social houses within the Decarbonisation Zone in 2018, split into the 4 main house types as illustrated in Figure 5.12:

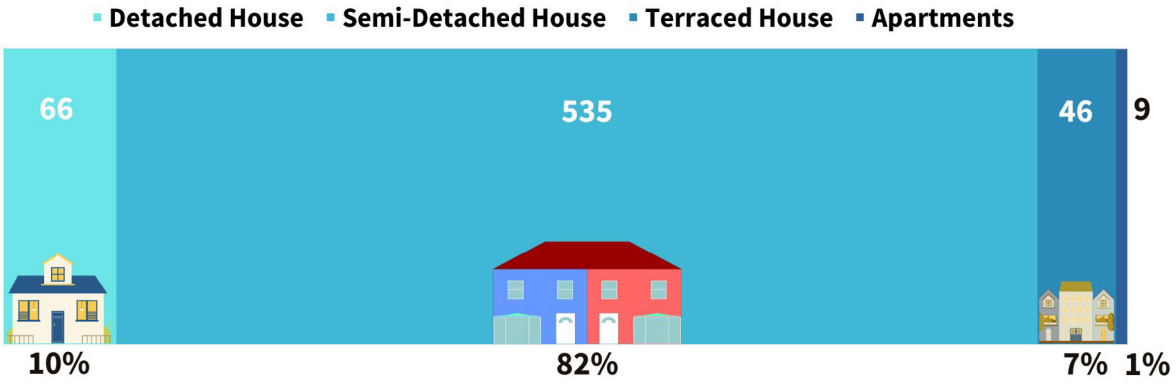


Figure 5.12: Breakdown of social housing types in DZ, 2018

Total energy consumption of Social Housing units within the Decarbonisation Zone in 2018 was **9.6 GWh**. A breakdown of the energy sources is broken down in Figure 5.13.

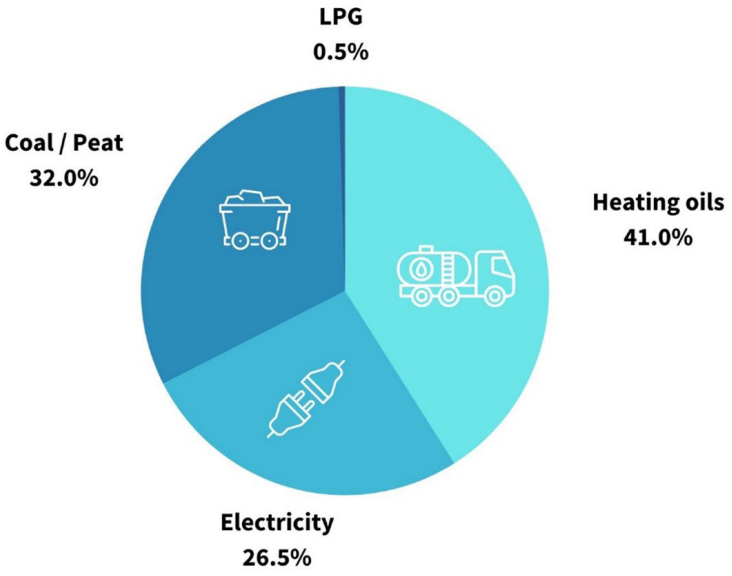


Figure 5.13: Share of energy sources used by social housing units in Decarbonisation Zone, 2018

When energy use was converted into greenhouse gas emissions, the residential sectors total emissions within the Decarbonisation Zone's amounted to **3.2 ktCO$_2$eq**. The breakdown of the greenhouse gas emissions from energy sources is illustrated in Figure 5.14.

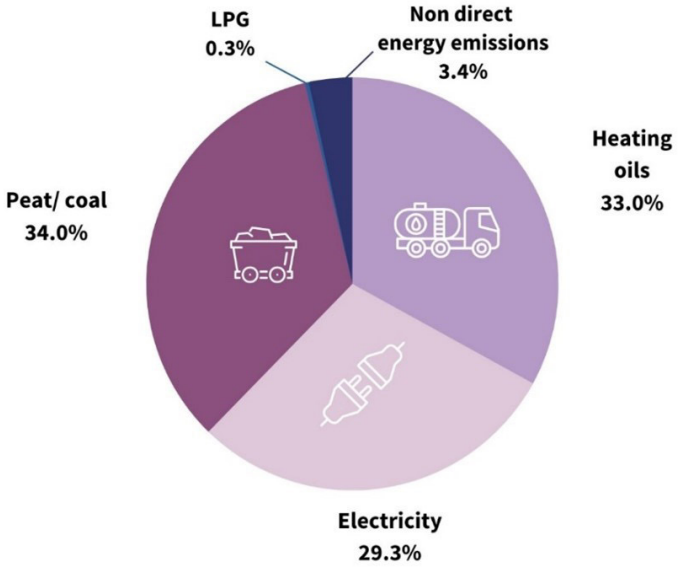


Figure 5.14: Share of greenhouse gas emissions from energy sources used in social housing units in DZ, 2018

5.3.5 Agriculture

Total energy consumption by the Agricultural Sector within the Decarbonisation Zone use in 2020 was 121.1 MWh (0.1GWh). The energy consumption by agricultural sector is broken down in Figure 5.15.

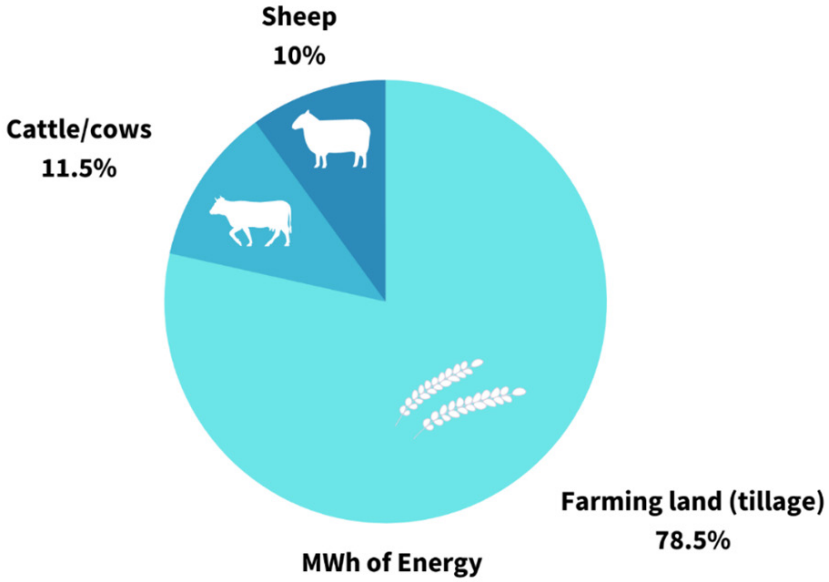


Figure 5.15: Energy consumption by the Agricultural Sector in Decarbonisation Zone, 2020

The energy related Agricultural sectors greenhouse gas emissions within the Decarbonisation Zone's amounted to 0.01 $ktCO_2eq$. The non energy related greenhouse gas emissions were 2.16 $ktCO_2eq$. Therefore, the total greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture within the Decarbonisation Zone area was **2.2 $ktCO_2eq$**.

5.3.6 Waste and Wastewater

The Waste & Wastewater sectors non-energy related greenhouse gases emissions within the Decarbonisation Zone's was **1.4 ktCO2eq**. and its breakdown is illustrated in Figure 5.16.

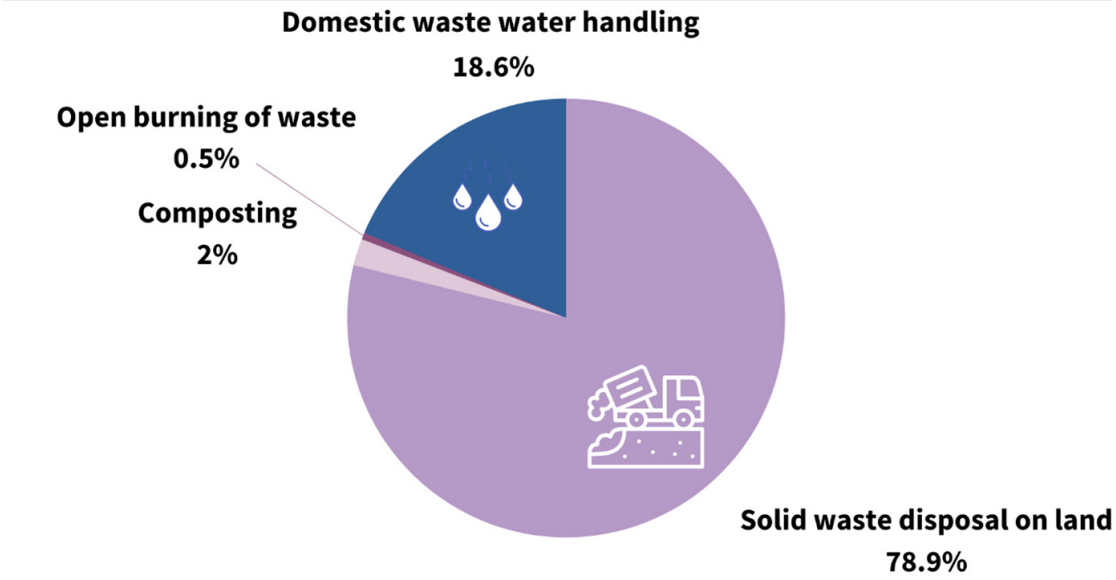


Figure 5.16: Waste & Wastewater greenhouse gas emissions in DZ, 2018

5.3.7 Wexford County Council Energy Usage in the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ)

Total energy consumption by Wexford County Council within the Decarbonisation Zone use in 2018 was **1,111.4MWh (1.1 GWh)**. The breakdown of 2018 energy consumption Wexford County Council is illustrated in Figure 5.17.

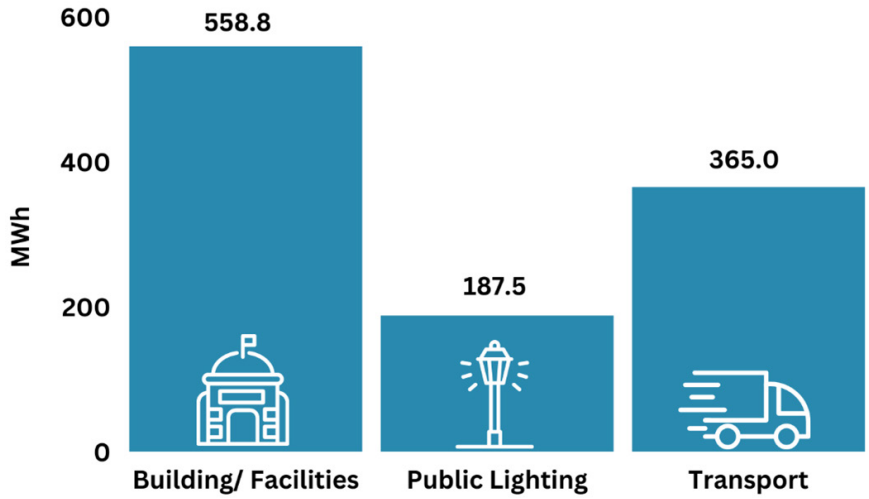


Figure 5.17: Breakdown of 2018 energy consumption, in MWh, by Wexford County Council -split by SEU Category

When energy use was converted into greenhouse gas emissions, Wexford County Council within the Decarbonisation Zone's total emissions amounted to 0.4 $ktCO_2eq$. The breakdown of 2018 greenhouse gas emissions for Wexford County Council is illustrated in Figure 5.18.

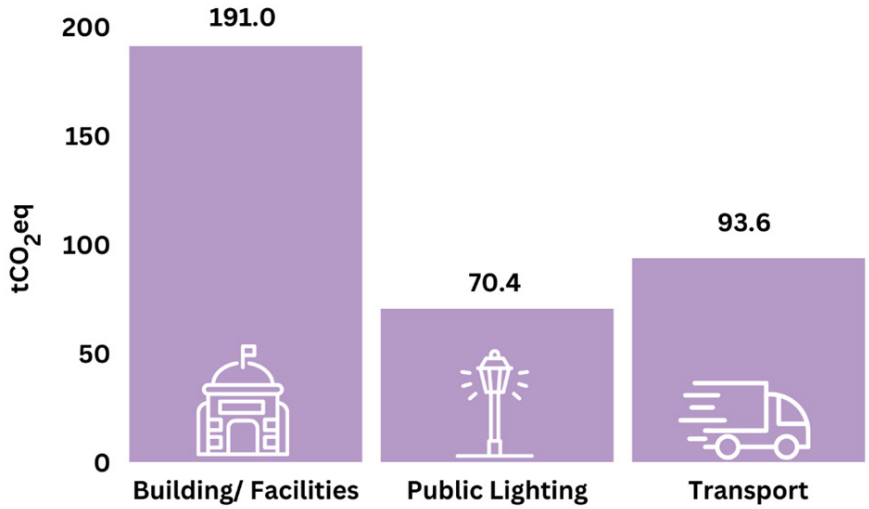


Figure 5.18. Breakdown of 2018 greenhouse gas emissions in tCO_2eq, by Wexford County Council – split by Significant Energy User Category

5.4 DZ Vision

Wexford County Council will show leadership with the communities and businesses of Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone, by reducing our emissions by 51% by 2030. In doing so, we will lead, support, and advocate broader society to increase their capacity to achieve climate resilience and increase climate awareness towards a low carbon society.

A view of Enniscorthy (Wexford County Council)

5.4.1 Register of Opportunities

The register of opportunities is a portfolio of potential actions, projects, technologies, and interventions. It is strategic and focused on changes that could lead to large scale emission reduction. Table 5.2 outlines the possible reduction opportunities.

Table 5.2 Projected Reduction Targets within Decarbonisation Zone Implementation

Sector	**2018 BEI**	**2030 Reduction Target**	**2030 Reduction Target**	**Projected Reduction 2030**	**Projected Reduction 2030**	**Based on the Following Actions**
	(tCO_2e)	**(tCO_2e)**	**(% of 2018 BEI)**	**(tCO_2e)**	**(% of 2018 BEI)**	**Electricity at 80% renewable by 2030 = 17% CO_2 reduction**
Residential	18,596	-9,484	51%	-12,276	66%	This reduction is based on 80% of private residential building with a D2 BER rating or higher retrofitting to a B2 BER rating. This is approximately 3200 based on 4100 residential properties in the DZ 3,000 houses in the DZ
Commercial	30,292	-15,449	51%	-14,388	47%	The baseline data shows that 35% of the emissions from the commercial sector comes from electricity and this trajectory assumes a 30% energy efficiency targets along with PV potential offsets.
Social Housing	3,257	-1,661	51%	-2,030	62%	This reduction is based on 100% social housing under control of WCC having fabric first retrofitting to a B2 BER rating.
Transport	30,780	-15,698	51%	-10,158	33%	This analysis is based on achieving a target of 40% EVs for private cars = 2,171 EVs and 30% EVs for goods vehicle = 303 as well as a 10% decrease in carbon emissions due to increased Active Travel.
Municipal	355	-181	51%	-266	75%	Based on the proposed actions for public lighting, completed works since 2018 and decarbonising the WCC fleet.
Agriculture	2,171	-1,107	51%	-10	0%	The DZ is mainly urban and the agriculture opportunities will be limited as the sector inly contributes 2.5% of the greenhouse gases in the Decarbonisation Zone
Wastewater & Waste	1,373	-700	51%	-343	25%	Limited impact on decarbonising the treatment of municipal waste waters. Diversion of biodegradable organic waste away from black bin residual waste streams to brown bins for recycling in AD and composting plants.
Total	**86,825**	**-44,281**	**51%**	**-39,471**	**45%**	

The offices of the High Performance Building Alliance in Enniscorthy (Wexford County Council)

The following opportunities and challenges have been identified as part of this Decarbonisation Plan.

5.4.1.1 High Performance Building Alliance (HPBA)

The High-Performance Building Alliance is located in Enniscorthy Urban Area and is composed of an alliance of professionals working together to address climate change through the built environment. The Board has 13 members at present, from the following organisations –Wexford County Council, Wexford and Waterford Education and Training Board, South East Technology University, Irish Green Building Council, Construction Industry Federation, National Standards Authority Ireland, Irish Manufacturing Research and High Performance Building Alliance are one of nine United Nations Economic Commission for Europe centres of excellence, and this enables them to collaborate on joint research projects with the other members.

Some of its key aims align with the planned work within the Decarbonisation Zone

- Support the transition from carbon-based fuels to sustainable solutions to help combat climate change.
- Help address fuel poverty and promote a healthy indoor environment.
- Explore additional employment opportunities in the construction and related services sector.

- Advise stakeholders on developing more high-performance buildings.
- Promote awareness, education, training and best practice in high performance buildings.

5.4.1.2 Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB)

In Ireland, all new buildings which started construction since 1st November 2019 are required to meet the Nearly Zero Energy Build standards as set down in Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations. This is also a key measure in Ireland's Climate Action Plan and is identified in Action 50 of the plan to up-skill current contractors / other industry players in deep retrofit, Nearly Zero Energy Build and new technology installations.

The energy efficient office building in Enniscorthy Technology Park (Wexford County Council)

5.4.1.3 Nearly Zero Energy Build Training Centre (nZEB)

Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board, in partnership with key stakeholders, have developed a suite of Nearly Zero Energy Building Construction Skills courses to offer to those in the Construction Sector. These courses are the first trade specific Nearly Zero Energy Build Courses being delivered in Europe. This nZEB Training Centre has been established in Enniscorthy to deliver these courses.

5.4.1.4 Sustainable Enniscorthy

Enniscorthy Sustainable Energy Community is a part of Sustainable Enniscorthy, a voluntary community group established in 2019 to focus on the incorporation of the UN

Sustainable Development Goals and bring about positive change in Enniscorthy. It is led by a committee of local volunteers who work on a range of sustainability focused projects in the area.

The vision of Sustainable Enniscorthy is to foster a thriving community that respects and preserves the natural beauty of their surroundings, while promoting sustainable practices in every aspect of people's daily lives.

Their work ranges from reducing waste and conserving energy to supporting local businesses and implementing eco-friendly initiatives.

Sustainable Enniscorthy formed a Sustainable Energy Community and one of its key areas is energy efficiency and it is now finalising its Energy Master Plan which will require implementation.

5.4.1.5 Renewable Energy

Solar PV Programme for commercial properties is a strong possibility and particularly for the commercial area on the Old Dublin Road, where the total roof area is approximately 57,300m2 and assuming half of the roof area is facing "south", the total useable roof area is 22,911m2 (assuming 20% of the roof area contains roof lighting). This equates to a potential installation of 4.6MW of solar PV, producing about 3.7GWh and reducing further the commercial sector emissions by 0.366 $ktCO_2$.

5.4.1.6 Enniscorthy Recycling Centre

The presence of a recycling centre in Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone is an opportunity to raise awareness, organise collections and possible expand the services that it currently provides.

The Household Recycling Centre in Enniscorthy (Wexford County Council)

5.4.1.7 St. John's Solar Farm

Saint John's Solar Farm is located within the Decarbonisation Zone of Enniscorthy and is designed to produce 5MW of energy and will contribute to the national grid decarbonisation target of 80% of renewable electricity.

5.4.1.8 Electric Vehicle Transition

Under the Climate Action Plan 2023, Ireland aims to have 30% of our private car fleet switched to electric by 2030. It is recognised that charging infrastructure is a limiting factor and one which will need to be addressed in the Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone.

5.4.1.9 Schools Energy Engagement

There are several schools in the Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone – four primary and three secondary schools and the SEAI grant that is available via the Community grant scheme can avail of up to 50% grant funding. This is another opportunity to decarbonise the energy usage of our schools in the area. Increasing awareness in relation to these grants and providing a supporting role in relation to expertise is a key area in progressing decarbonisation in the education sector of Enniscorthy.

5.4.1.10 District Heating

In 2021, the built environment accounted for 12.3% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. District heating makes up less than 1% of Ireland's heat market. District heating can play a key role in improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions in Ireland - it is a tried and tested technology that uses a network of highly insulated pipes to deliver heat from a central energy source to provide space heating and hot water to the buildings connected to the network. It can offer flexibility in fuel choice and is therefore highly suited to wide scale, rapid decarbonisation of heating systems. District heating also allows for alternate combinations of energy resources to be used at different times over the lifetime of a district heating network.

Wexford's County Development Plan 2022-2028 includes Objective ES22 - to support and facilitate the installation of district heating technologies in new developments, including multi-unit apartment developments, commercial and industrial developments. Hence, Wexford County Council will be liaising with the District Heating steering group to help promote this method of heating in the DZ, while noting that the Steering Group considers that the financing of district heating systems should be predominantly market based, with the provision of supports (such as domestic connections to a network) consistent with other decarbonised heat sources.

5.4.1.11 Reimagining Enniscorthy

Reimagining Enniscorthy is public art & community decarbonisation project, which took take place in 2022-23 throughout Enniscorthy town. It was collaborative, place-based response to the climate crisis, and a creative exploration of Enniscorthy as Wexford's pilot Decarbonisation Zone.

This public art project was jointly funded through the Wexford County Council's Per Cent for Art Scheme and Creative Ireland Programme helping to create a local ecology network for people-led climate action, connecting neighbours and community groups in Enniscorthy with each other, and with local food producers, environmental groups, artists and craftspeople, so a conversation could be started about food - where it comes from, how we grow it, and the environmental impact

5.5 Decarbonisation Zone Actions

Local authorities are the key drivers to advance the implementation of national climate policy at local level and are well positioned to do this. However, the remit of local authorities does not extend to direct authority over all sectors to deliver emission reductions. Wexford County Council's responsibilities in relation to climate action are:

- Full accountability for our own climate emissions and energy usage
- Influence, coordination and facilitation in our role as an advocate of climate action.

Fundamental to the delivery of the targets within the defined Decarbonisation Zone area is the deliberate focus on a place-based approach to climate action. The place-based approach brings together the findings of a robust evidence base, context specific conditions and the promotion of wider collaboration by stakeholders to create tailored polices to deliver the outcomes required. These place-based Decarbonisation Zone actions identified for Enniscorthy are listed in Table 5.3 where a range of actions have been identified.

These actions consider the economic and social benefits of decarbonising, including just transition and health, along with the wider co-benefits of air quality, improved health, biodiversity, sustainable land management, lower noise levels, waste, water and circular economy. Additionally, a Decarbonisation Zone can explore the co-benefits of climate adaptation and examine a range of local measures such as climate proofing, afforestation, green and blue infrastructure, reducing heat island effects, citizen awareness, addressing an ageing population and behavioural change.

CASE STUDY 5:

Enniscorthy Community Allotments

SA community space for growing your own food, in a rented allotment space. The space is used by individuals and organisations like Wexford Mental Health, Cottage Autism Network, who come together to create a welcoming, nurturing, and inclusive environment.

The geodesic dome in Enniscorthy Community Allotments (Enniscorthy Community Allotments)

It is set on 1.5 acres of land in Enniscorthy urban Area, provided by Wexford County Council, and has received funding from Enniscorthy Municipal District, Wexford County Council and LEADER and the local credit union. This mix of funding partners, combined with their inclusive ethos, means that many aspects of this project represent best practice for community action.

There is currently, individual plots, raised bed plots, polytunnels and recreation areas, with plans for growth - providing opportunities for training and further development within the community.

Annual membership fees are kept low and there is a waiting list for membership.

It is hoped that the allotments in Enniscorthy can be used as a model for potential action in other communities in County Wexford.

The range of projects proposed aim to embrace a range of technologies and measures addressing a variety of areas which include:

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

To advance Decarbonisation Zones purposefully local authorities will need to augment their scope and responsibility on climate action, use all levers available and build sustainable partnerships, to work across sectoral boundaries. Cultivating a community-driven approach will be fundamental to also generate buy-in and support, as well as encourage the sustained involvement of stakeholders.

DZs offer a unique opportunity for local authorities to work in partnership with key stakeholders to:

- Establish a clear vision and core objectives for the Decarbonisation Zone.
- Identify the main areas to prioritise delivery of effective climate action and tackle the barriers to doing so.
- Plan and design multiple interventions and innovations to confront climate challenges.
- Monitor, learn what works, share, replicate and scale up as necessary.
- Integrate meaningful community and stakeholder engagement (including older people and marginalised groups), activation and mobilisation alongside evidence-based decision making and sustained governance.
- Create and facilitate enabling conditions for decarbonisation through all regulatory and policy levers available such as in the areas of housing delivery, spatial planning, economic development, environmental protection etc.

The following measures apply to all the actions listed in Table 5.3.

1 Promote climate action projects that support and maximize environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.

2 Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of greenhouse gas sequestration associated with land use functions.

3 Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effect on the receiving environment shall be supported.

4 Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.

5 Promote and encourage use of sustainable transport modes on all journeys undertaken as part of work by council personnel, as well as ensure that the journey is necessary.

6 Wexford County Council is committed 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 Climate Action Plan.

Visualisation of potential street scape layout for Enniscorthy Square (URDF Concept)

Table 5.3 – Decarbonisation Zone Actions
See Appendix A for the DECA Goals and Objectives related to each climate action.

Governance and Leadership **GL Goal: Foster Governance, Leadership and Partnerships for Climate Action**							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ GL 1	Promote Enniscorthy as a sustainable town, following completion of some of the DZ actions to enhance the brand and reputation of Enniscorthy as a town	Adaptation Mitigation	a) Number of media coverage items for Enniscorthy's transition b) Number of Social Media engagement with posts promoting the actions in Enniscorthy	**Climate Action Team** **Communications** PPN	2025	Business agreement on promotion message	5.6 2.3 4.2 4.3 5.2
DZ GL 2	Develop a DZ Implementation Team to coordinate DZ action implementation	Adaptation Mitigation	Team formed and operational	**Climate Action Team** **Enniscorthy District Members** **Enniscorthy Library** **Enniscorthy Business & Community Representatives**	2024	Staff availability Public availability	1.5 4.3 4.4 2.3
DZ GL 3	Aid businesses in Enniscorthy to become aware of their carbon footprint and what they can do to reduce it	Adaptation Mitigation	Number of business availing of training, awareness programmes, environmental education	**Climate Action Team** **Environment Enniscorthy Business Community** **Enniscorthy Library**	2029	Willingness of the business community to engage	4.2 4.4 5.2 5.6

Governance and Leadership GL Goal: Foster Governance, Leadership and Partnerships for Climate Action							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ GL 4	Maximise WCC's delivery of upgraded properties within Enniscorthy DZ, under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme in line with department targets, to a minimum of a B2 BER rating. All properties being let shall include a BER having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations	Mitigation	Number of houses retrofitted per year in Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone	**Housing Section Climate Action Team**	2024-2029	Departmental funding continuing for the scheme	2.1 1.1 1.4 2.3 3.5

Built Environment and Transport **BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport**							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ BET 1	Work with Special Projects, the Active Travel Team and the people of Enniscorthy on the Enniscorthy Town Centre Regeneration Plan (TCRP) having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations	Mitigation & Adaptation	a) % Reduction in traffic, car journeys b) Number of public transport trips taken c) Number of car parking spaces removed d) Square metres of public realm/pedestrianised areas created e) Number of vacant building repurposed	**Special Projects Active Travel Team,** Enniscorthy Municipal District Planning	2024-2029	Funding & resource availability	1.5 3.5 4.1
DZ BET 2	Establishment stakeholder engagement groups for Renewable Energy, Transport, Residential, Educational & Commercial sectors	Mitigation & Adaptation	Establishment of working groups	Climate Action Team Enniscorthy District Enniscorthy Community Business Community Schools	2024	Sectoral interest and availability	2.1 3.4

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ BET 3	Production of the Enniscorthy Area Local Transport Plan and identification of measures for implementation whist ensuring the plan is: - Designed to mitigate potential environmental impacts associated with supported active travel infrastructure. - Support the carrying out of environmental/biodiversity enhancement during the active travel development process	Adaptation	a) Development of Enniscorthy Area Local Transport Plan b) Number of new measures implemented as a direct result of the Local Transport Plan (subject to adoption)	**Active Travel Team** National Transport Authority	2024	Funding to be allocated in 2024	3.4 3.5
DZ BET 4	Apply to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the provision of a Town Bus in Enniscorthy	Mitigation	Addition of Town Bus Service	**Wexford Local Link** Transport Infrastructure Ireland Active Travel Team Climate Action Team	2025	Transport Infrastructure Ireland resource allocation	2.1 3.4 2.3 4.4
DZ BET 5	Produce a feasibility study on the provision of Park and Ride in Enniscorthy whilst having appropriate regard to traffic and transport, planning and environmental constraints and considerations	Mitigation	Feasibility Study produced	**Climate Action Team** Enniscorthy Municipal District Active Travel	2029	Funding	2.3 3.4 4.4

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ BET 6	Investigate the feasibility of adding bus stops to existing services, at a number of locations including Enniscorthy quays for all north bound coaches/buses and at the R772 north of Blackstoops roundabout, whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, cultural heritage	Mitigation	Establishment of bus stops	**Enniscorthy Municipal District** Climate Action Team Local Link Wexford Bus	2026	Production of Enniscorthy Local Transport Plan	2.1 3.4 4.4
DZ BET 7	Roll out of eBike public bike sharing scheme in Enniscorthy having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage	Mitigation	a) Put eBikes in place for public bike sharing scheme on a trial basis b) Track usage in kilometres	**Roads Section** Active Travel Team Bolt Bikes	2026	Funding availability	2.3 4.4 4.3
DZ BET 8	Active Travel Project at St. Aidan's National School, based on the Safe Routes to School Scheme having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage	Adaptation	Number of students who have changed mode of transport, post project completion	**Active Travel** National Transport Authority An Taisce	2024/2025	Funding €80k allocated in 2023	4.6 2.3 1.3 4.3

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ BET 9	Investigate the viability of an outdoor escalator on streets with steep gradients, while having due regard to planning, environmental and cultural heritage considerations	Mitigation	Completion of feasibility study	**Special Projects Active Travel Team** Enniscorthy Municipal District	2025 - 2029	Funding and suitability of climate and streetscape	2.3 1.1 4.6
DZ BET 10	Investigate the technology available to promote car-pooling for workers in Enniscorthy Town	Mitigation	Evaluation of potential suppliers undertaken and published	Climate Action Team & Business Community	2024	Car owner buy-in Technology costs	2.3 4.3 1.1 4.6 5.1
DZ BET 11	Assess car parking policies with the Decarbonisation Zone to reduce car usage within the Town Centre	Mitigation	a) Number of days/trials of car free days in the Decarbonisation Zone b) Report produced post car free days	Enniscorthy Municipal District	2024 - 2026	Business community buy-in	2.3
DZ BET 12	Liaise with the District Heating Steering Group on the possible identification of potential sites for a Sustainable District Heating System in Enniscorthy, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure the project is suitably located having regard to planning and environmental constraints and considerations	Mitigation	Feasibility study completed to assess suitability & identify Potential Sites (if suitable)	Climate Action Team. District Heating Steering Group (DECC). Planning	2025/2026	Site suitability Funding Local Area Plan	6.1 6.2 6.3 5.1 4.3

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ BET 13	Estimate the solar potential within Enniscorthy DZ and the associated costs having appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations, including potential glint and glare impacts	Mitigation	a) Feasibility study completed b) Cost estimates produced	**Environmental Section, WCC** Planning Property Section Climate Action Team Enniscorthy SEC, Enniscorthy Municipal District Businesses of Enniscorthy Enniscorthy Community Alliance	2025	Availability of accurate figures Cooperation of business community in Enniscorthy Availability of suppliers to give quotes	1.4
DZ BET 14	Liaise with the Schools within the Decarbonisation Zone in relation to solar PV installation, having appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations, including potential glint and glare pacts	Mitigation	Number of solar installations in schools	Climate Action Team Enniscorthy Schools Funding bodies	2029	Availability of funding for solar in schools Availability of suitable suppliers within timeframe availability	3.4
DZ BET 15	Investigate the feasibility of small scale renewable energy projects such as solar and wind whilst ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection constraints and considerations	Mitigation	Completion of Feasibility Study	Environment Section, WCC. Enniscorthy SEC SEAI SEEA	2024 - 2029	Planning restriction's Suitable locations Funding availability	2.3 4.1 3.4

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ BET 16	Work with the Heritage Section and Enniscorthy Municipal District to repurpose and reuse existing vacant buildings and investigate the possibility of using new sustainable insulation products within existing Enniscorthy Heritage Buildings having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations	Mitigation	a) Number of buildings piloting the use of sustainable insulation products b) Number of measures implemented in a building. c) Number of buildings selected for repurposing. d) Number of buildings repurposed	Heritage Section Planning SEAI SEEA	2024 - 2029	Funding availability Building suitability	2.3 3.4 4.1
DZ BET 17	Investigate the feasibility of companies co-funding a high speed electric vehicle charger for use by companies within their own industrial estate having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage	Adaptation Mitigation	a) Feasibility study completed b) Number of companies engaging	Climate Action Team Enniscorthy business community	2026	Cooperation of business community in Enniscorthy	4.6 5.2
DZ BET 18	LED replacement for council streetlights within Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity	Mitigation	a) Number of lights replaced with LED within the Decarbonisation Zone b) Energy and CO2 Reduction savings calculated	Environment Roads	2025	Funding availability	1.5 3.3

Built Environment and Transport BET Goal: Achieve Carbon Emission Reductions and Energy efficiency targets for 2030 through our built environment and transport							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ BET 19	Arrange a workshop with the pertinent sections of Wexford County Council on sustainable drainage systems	Adaptation	a) Arrangement of sustainable drainage systems workshop. b) Number of attendees at workshop	**Climate Action Team** Local Authority Waters Programme	2026	Staff resources	2.3 3.3
DZ BET 20	Make a submission to the SatNav/GPS companies in relation to rerouting of HGV's out of Enniscorthy town	Mitigation	Successful rerouting to avoid HGVs being routed via narrow streets	**Climate Action Team Enniscorthy Municipal District SatNav/GPS** providers	2025	SatNav/GPS providers implementing the rerouting as requested	2.1

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ NEGI 1	Work with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) on the Slaney Pilot catchment Management Plan and Catchment Fora to facilitate greater public participation in water management, under the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 and support the implementation of all relevant remediation and mitigation measures required to maintain or achieve good or high-quality water status in the County	Adaptation	Number of participants attending at awareness events	**Local Authority Waters Programme** WXCC Voluntary Groups in Enniscorthy	Ongoing	Staff resources	4.6 3.1 3.3 3.5
DZ NEGI 2	Investigate the feasibility of implementing a pilot study into monitor real-time CO2 emissions within the DZ	Mitigation	a) Installation of CO2 monitors and establish a baseline b) Yearly revised readings post actions	**Climate Action Team Environment Section** Dogpatch Labs South Eastern Technological University Google	2024/2025	Funding availability Staff resources	1.5 3.1
DZ NEGI 3	Expand and promote Enniscorthy Recycling Centre to become a re-use circular economy hub whilst ensuring activities at the facility are carried out in accordance with the Waste Management Act and the environmental management and protection related conditions contained in the waste facility permit for the facility	Mitigation	a) Increased use of the recycling centre b) Increase range of products that can be reused, repaired or recycled	Climate Action Team Environment Enniscorthy Community PPN	2029	Willingness of the community to use the services	4.2 5.1 5.2 5.4

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure NEGI Goal: Protect and enhance the natural environment in County Wexford to support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ NEGI 4	Assess Lucas Park's potential for rewilding and carbon sequestration	Adaptation	Feasibility Study completed	**Climate Action Team**	2025	Soil or topography suitability Funding	2.3 3.3

Communities, Resilience & Transition CRT Goal: Mobilise Climate Action, increase resilience and a just transition in Local Communities							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ CRT 1	Create and promote a Register of Actions, which communities and businesses within Enniscorthy DZ could update, listing all climate actions they have completed	Adaptation Mitigation	a) Number of entries b) Number of groups entering data into the register of actions document	**Climate Action Team** Enniscorthy community groups Enniscorthy businesses	2024-2029	Willingness of businesses and community groups to populate their actions	5.5 5.6 2.3
DZ CRT 2	Work with Schools and Sustainable Enniscorthy on Just Transition and Upcycling initiatives e.g. Uniform Exchange Days, Bicycle repair training and Bicycle exchange, as part of Library event programming	Adaptation Mitigation	Participation of schools and students in climate action initiatives	Special Projects Active Travel Team, Enniscorthy Municipal District Enniscorthy Library Sustainable Enniscorthy	Ongoing	Schools capacity to support these actions	4.6 5.2
DZ CRT 3	Identify societal groups that are challenged economically in dealing with climate action put a plan in place to aid those sections of society.	Adaptation Mitigation	Study of challenges identified and published	Climate Action Team South East Technological University Youth Groups working in the area Charities working in the area	2026	Lack of capacity within the targeted community to undertake this additional work Funding Availability	6.2 6.1
DZ CRT 4	Working collaboratively to deliver climate action with arts, culture and creativity programmes with a particular focus on the Creative Places Arts Programme in Enniscorthy 2023-2026 & the Creative Ireland Programme	Adaptation Mitigation	Number of projects and interactions	**Arts Office** Creative Ireland Arts Council Sustainable Enniscorthy, Creative Places Enniscorthy Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Presentation Arts Centre Enniscorthy Library	2024/2025	Community buy in and ongoing funding	4.3 4.6

Communities, Resilience & Transition CRT Goal: Mobilise Climate Action, increase resilience and a just transition in Local Communities							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ CRT 5	Work with Local Enterprise Office in running a 'Climate Business Leader' competition	Adaptation Mitigation	a) Develop criteria for Climate Business Leader competition. b) Climate Business Leader identified annually	**Local Enterprise Office** Wexford Chamber LEADER Climate Action Team Ecomerit	2024	Willingness of businesses and community groups to populate their actions	5.6 1.5
DZ CRT 6	Work on the feasibility of an Electric Vehicle taxi co-operative	Mitigation	Completion of Feasibility Report	**Climate Action Team** Think Tank for Action on Social Change (TASC) Enniscorthy SEC SEEA Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI) Enniscorthy Municipal District National Transport Authority	Ongoing	2024 - 2026	6.2 5.5 5.6 1.5

Sustainability & Resource Management SRM Goal: Create and enhance a culture of prevent, reduce, reuse, and recycle of resources to promote a circular economy							
No.	**Action**	**Adaptation & Mitigation**	**KPI**	**Lead Dept & Partners**	**Timeframe**	**Dependencies**	**DECA Goal Objective**
DZ SRM 1	Run sustainability and energy efficiency workshops\ initiatives, increasing knowledge on grant funding and aid the Enniscorthy people on completion of grant applications	Mitigation	a) Number of energy efficiency workshops b) Number of attendees at workshops	**Environment Section, WCC.** **Enniscorthy SEC** SEAI SEEA Enniscorthy Library	2024-2029	Attendance numbers	4.3 1.4 3.4
DZ SRM 2	Working with the community in creating links between climate action, air quality and the co-benefits to health within the Decarbonisation Zone of Enniscorthy	Mitigation	Number of people attending an awareness programme	**Enniscorthy SEC** Climate Action Team Enniscorthy Library PPN	2024-2029	Funding availability	4.2 1.4
DZ SRM 3	Work with Enniscorthy businesses, Enniscorthy Chamber, Enniscorthy SEC in promoting climate action initiatives such as Go-Cups, low-level lighting in shops, championing new business initiatives on energy reduction	Mitigation	a) Number of Businesses adopting climate measures b) Number of Business champions in place	**Climate Action Team** Enniscorthy SEC Enniscorthy District Environment Enniscorthy Chamber	2025	Achieving business owner agreement Funding Coordinator availability	3.4 1.4 5.6
DZ SRM 4	Develop a Neighbourhood Tool Sharing Initiative with the Tidy Towns and Enniscorthy Allotments, in association with Enniscorthy Library's "Library of Things"	Mitigation	Tool sharing in place	**Enniscorthy Library** Enniscorthy Community Gardens	2027	Funding Storage location Group participation	4.6 5.4

Southeast Greenway - Phase 1 (Wexford County Council)

6 Implementation and Reporting

6.1 Planning for implementation

Puffins nesting on The Saltee Islands

The Climate Action Plan will be implemented by Wexford County Council. Whilst the plan requires a whole-of-Council approach, the ownership of the Plan is held within the Directorate of Housing, Community, Libraries, Arts, Emergency Services and Environment & Climate Change.

A Climate Action Team was established by Wexford County Council in 2023. This team includes dedicated resources of a Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer, and Community Climate Action Officer. Once the Climate Action Plan is adopted by the Council, the role of the Climate Action team will be to embed positive climate action across all activities of Wexford County Council; to monitor the implementation of the actions under the Climate Action Plan and to coordinate the reporting and evaluation of the Plan to the Strategic Policy Group and Elected Members. The core Climate Action Team is supported by a wider cross-departmental Climate Action Steering Group and Energy team within Wexford County Council. The Climate Action Team will also be the point of contact for the public to learn about climate action in the County.

Lagoon at Lady's Island

Wexford County Council will work collaboratively and in partnership with a range of key stakeholders to support the delivery of the Climate Action Plan. These stakeholders include, but are not limited to, the following:

- City and County Management Agency
- Community Groups across the County including: Age Friendly Ireland, Comhairle na nOg, Local Environment Groups, Tidy Towns
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office
- Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly
- Farming Communities.
- Local Authority Services National Training Group
- Local Government Management Agency
- Neighbouring local authorities of County Wicklow, County Carlow, County Kilkenny and county and city of Waterford
- Public Participation Network
- Southeast Energy Agency

- Sustainable Energy Communities

These partnerships will provide opportunities for collaboration on projects, shared learnings, technical support and leveraging of funding opportunities during the implementation of the Plan.

It is understood that climate change is a transboundary challenge; it does not stop at political and geographical borders and cognisance will be taken of the EPA's 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind' As such, a regional approach has been agreed by the local authorities in the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office whereby the member local authorities commit to close collaboration on the implementation of the Climate Action Plans.

Following approval of the Plan, an Implementation Plan will be developed for each action, which will set out in detail how the action will be delivered, noting the responsible department and timescales. Wexford County Council will align the timing of internal implementation reporting intervals with that of sectoral progress reporting requirements.

Wexford County Council Climate Action Steering Group, 2024

CASE STUDY 6:

Wexford Harbour | Línte Na Farraige

(lintenafarraige.com)

Inspired by the light installations of two Finnish artists Timo Aho and Pekka Niittyvirta, the Linte na Farraige project team worked with scientists from Trinity College Dublin and Maynooth University, the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) and Local Authorities, as well as designers from Algorithm and Native Events.

Wexford County Council participated in this project with the installation located at Wexford Harbour. The lines of light represent future sea level rise based on predictions from the 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report and historical storm surge data. This line of light marks the worst-case scenario. The light installation was powered by solar panels.

The work was funded by the inaugural Creative Climate Action fund, an initiative from the Creative Ireland Programme in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Projects for the second fund have now been announced and further supporting climate action and cooperation between the arts and sciences to educate, inform, and inspire action.

6.2 Plan Dependencies and Risk

6.2.1 Funding and Partnerships

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

Partnerships are also a key ingredient towards realising low carbon solutions for the sector. The private sector is already playing a role towards achieving the National Climate Objective and this type of collaboration can enhance the capabilities of the sector even further in achieving reductions in Ireland's greenhouse gases by 51% by 2030 and becoming climate neutral by no later than 2050. There are also benefits for the local government sector in partnering with the Third Level sector. The Third Level sector can provide research and development expertise to help local authorities and implement

innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. These partnerships can also help local authorities access funding opportunities for climate action projects and initiatives. Wexford County Council will encourage and facilitate collaboration with the private sector and Third Level sector where possible.

6.2.2 Community Climate Action Programme

Community Climate Action Programme Presentation Gorey Library September 2023 (Wexford County Council)

A fund to support and build low carbon communities was launched on 3rd February 2023 by the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The Community Climate Action Programme (Strand 1) is a fund of €24 million for local authorities to assist communities to take direct climate action and support the transition to a low carbon economy. A further €3 million (Strand 1A) is being provided to support cross-border and all-island community climate action initiatives. Wexford County Council has been allocated €669,000 under Strand 1 and this fund will be allocated to projects that address the following five themes:

- Community energy
- Travel
- Food and waste
- Shopping and recycling
- Local climate and environmental action.

The Community Climate Action Programme requires the appointment of dedicated Community Climate Action Officers in all local authorities to guide and support communities from the outset. Wexford County Council recruited a Community Climate Action Officer in August 2023 to assist the communities of County Wexford to take direct climate action. Financial support to enable communities, will be a key priority and emphasis will be placed on exploring other possible funding sources, both within Wexford County Council and other agencies. Engagement with community groups will promote the identification and implementation of relevant energy efficiency measures, renewable energy actions, climate adaptation and resilience measures, access to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland grant schemes, the Climate Action Fund, European Commission funding and others. Local authority efforts in citizen and stakeholder engagement will continue to be supported by the CAROs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Dialogue on Climate Action, and other partners, and will take cognisance of the EPA's (Climate Change in the Irish Mind) Project.

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

6.3 Tracking Progress through Key Performance Indicators

The performance by Wexford County Council on the delivery of energy efficiency and emission reductions as prescribed by national climate obligations, will continue to be tracked through the established Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system managed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

For actions outside of this, the Council will track progress on the delivery of actions through associated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs),

Strengthened climate action policy at national level inspired a determined response and commitment by local government, as a sector. This commitment is set out in the County and City Management Association (CCMA) published strategy on behalf of local government entitled Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 (DECA 2021).

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

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

- Climate Action Resources
- Climate Action Training for Local Authority staff and Elected Members
- Actions delivered.
- Enterprise support in areas of climate action
- Energy efficiency
- Emission reductions
- Active travel measures
- Severe weather response.

KPIs will continue to be added as required by the sector and Wexford County Council will contribute relevant data in order to assist in highlighting the progress of the local government sector on climate action.

Slade Harbour (Wexford County Council)

6.4 Reporting Requirements and Arrangements

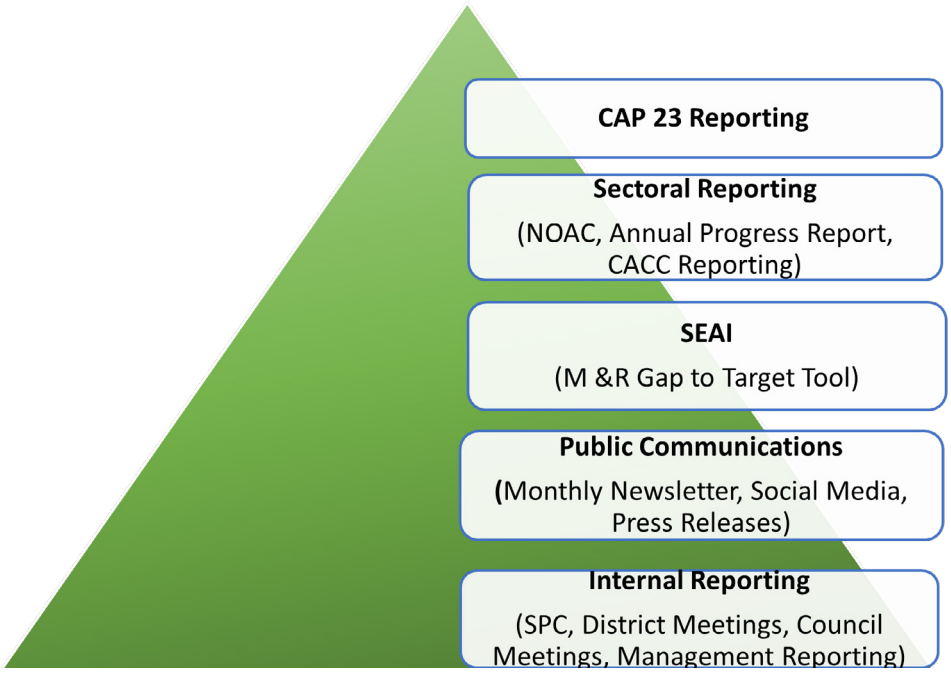


Figure 6.1 Reporting Obligations for Climate Actions

6.4.1 Internal Reporting

To ensure that delivery is timely, the implementation of the Plan will be monitored via an in-house tracking system. The local authority will also facilitate reporting to elected members on an annual basis, but key activities will be reported more frequently to the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment SPC of the Council.

6.4.2 Public Communications

The Climate Action communication and stakeholder engagement includes:

- Monthly newsletter (subscriber numbers are on the increase). Promotion of this mailing list is via Wexford County Council's social media platforms
- Local media
- Periodic press releases.
- In person events with climate experts, the Climate Action Team and other relevant Council staff.

6.4.3 Monitoring and Reporting System (M&R)

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

6.4.4 Energy Elephant

Energy Elephant is an energy management system used by Wexford County Council, with the support and assistance of South East Energy Agency, to monitor and assist in understanding the energy use and emissions in building stock, fleet and public lights.

6.4.5 ISO50001

Wexford County Council secured ISO 50001 accreditation in 2021. The ISO 50001 standard is an Energy Management Standard for energy use and consumption and provides a systematic approach for organisations to achieve continuous improvement in terms of energy performance, energy efficiency, energy use and consumption.

Surveillance Audits are carried out annually with a Certification Audit every 3 years.

6.4.6 Sectoral Performance

Wexford County Council will report annually on their performance on climate action by way of KPIs (as outlined in Section 6.3) to inform the performance of the local government sector on climate action, as part of the local government Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 Strategy.

6.4.7 National Climate Action Plan

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

Opening of South East Greenway (Wexford County Council)

6.4.8 Sustainable Development Goals

Figure 6.2 UN Sustainable Development Goals

The 2018-2020 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan acknowledged that local government "has a crucial role to play in translating national policies into tangible practical actions that can help to concretise the SDG objectives into our individual and communities' behaviours and goals." Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024, intends to build on the role of Local Government in Ireland and incorporates specific actions to do so which include:

- Showcasing, sharing, and building on existing initiatives
- Capacity building and awareness raising
- Embedding the SDGs in governance and reporting frameworks
- Incorporating the SDGs within local planning frameworks
- Community engagement.

Furthermore, Local Authorities are recognised as one of Agenda 2030's nine "Major Groups", which play a crucial role in sustainable development and Agenda 2030 also highlights the particular role of Local Authorities and communities in sustainable urban development.

Wexford County Council is working to advance the SDGs through a variety of measures

such as:

- The incorporation of the SDGs into Corporate and County Development Plans
- Joining/establishing local and/or international partnerships
- Development of a mapping tool to map SDG-related actions in the Council area.
- The provision of training
- Holding information events with external groups including universities, Public Participation Networks, Tidy Towns and Creative Ireland.

Duncannon European Innovation Partnership (Wexford County Council)

CASE STUDY 7:

eBike Sharing Scheme – Bolt Bikes

The eBike sharing scheme was launched on the 17th of May 2023. With a fleet of 50 e-bikes being made available to the public in Wexford Town. This is a public, private partnership, with the council providing an initial 28 parking locations for Bolt Bikes (this will increase to about 45 total in Wexford Town).

There has been terrific uptake on the ebike scheme in Wexford Town. From May to December 2023, there were 3,165 unique users of the bikes, with a total of 64,134km travelled. It is difficult to precisely calculate the CO2 savings, given that the average car's carbon output when driven is dependent on engine size. Assuming a conservative estimate of output of 100g per kilometre for car usage compared to an output of 1-2g for ebike (even if the battery was charged exclusively using fossil fuel generated electricity), this would equate to a total savings of 6,285kgCO2, or the equivalent CO2 emissions from one average car travelling 62,850kms.

The ebikes also contribute to making Wexford Town more accessible to people. The ongoing success of this scheme is apparent in the expressions of interest from the larger communities in County Wexford for the introduction of an ebike sharing scheme in their towns.

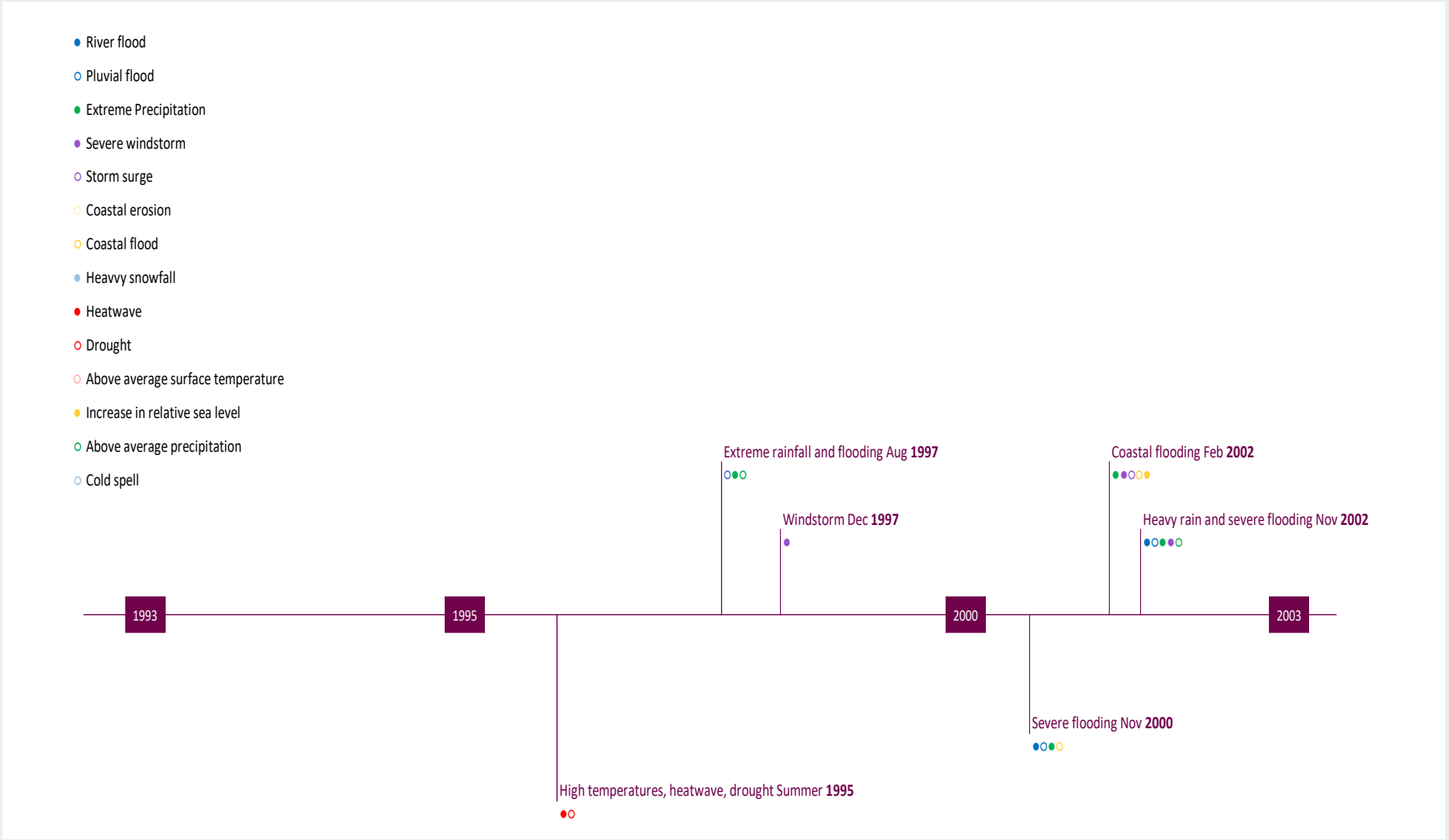
Appendix A: DECA Goals and Objectives

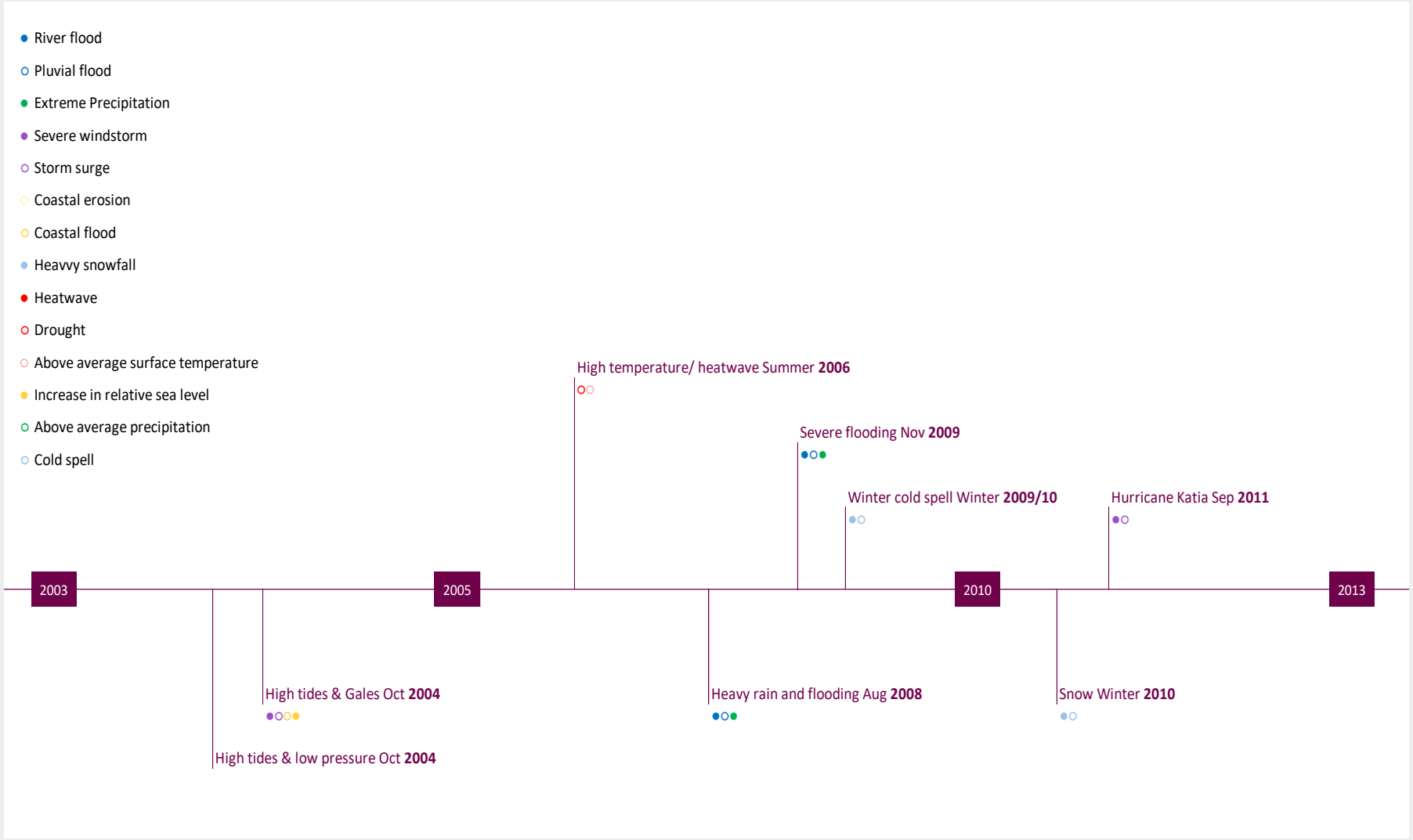
Strategic Goal 1: Foster governance, leadership and partnerships for climate action
Key Objective 1.1 Advocate for local government as a lead sector in relation to climate action, and influence local and national policy so that it can effectively leverage this leadership position.
Key Objective 1.2 Ensure that local authorities are aligned, resourced and funded to capitalise on this leadership position in relation to climate action.
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.
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.
Key Objective 1.5 Gather and share data to ensure that local authority research, expertise and experience is leveraged for climate action.
Strategic Goal 2: Achieve our carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030 and 2050
Key Objective 2.1 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our housing, offices, infrastructure and transport fleet in line with national 2030 and 2050 targets.
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.
Key Objective 2.3 Develop investment strategies for transformative decarbonisation projects. These investment strategies will focus on achieving the maximum levels of emissions reduction
Strategic Goal 3: Deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience.
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.
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.
Key Objective 3.3 Prioritise nature-based solutions, where possible.
Key Objective 3.4 Support other agencies in the implementation of other sectoral plans at local level.
Key Objective 3.5 Continue to advance and embed climate adaptation within all forward and physical planning processes.

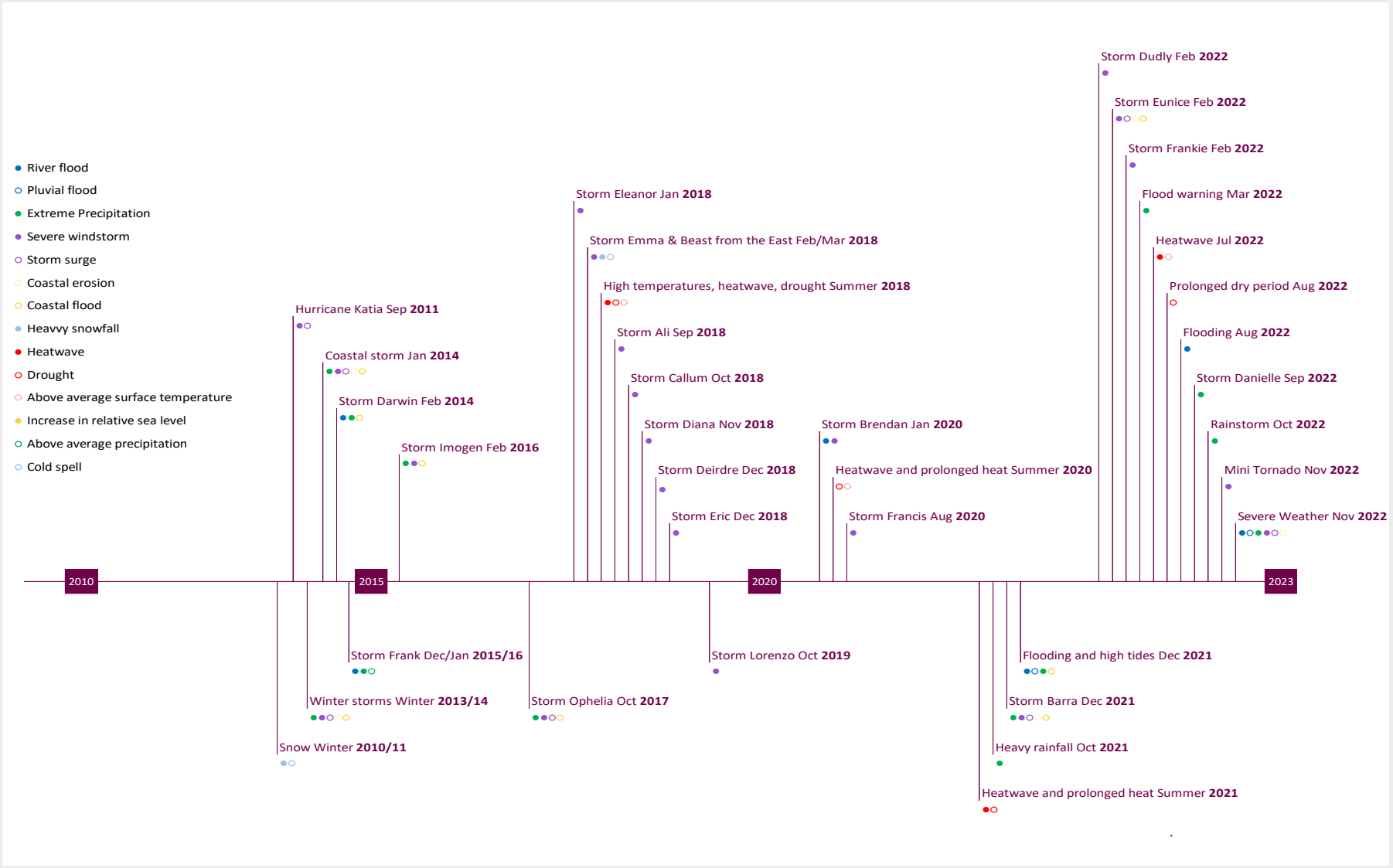
Strategic Goal 4: Mobilise climate action in local communities
Key Objective 4.1 Identify what matters to communities in relation to climate action and climate resilience - now and in the future.
Key Objective 4.2 Inform and create awareness about effective climate action measures.
Key Objective 4.3 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.
Key Objective 4.4 Seek out and develop partnerships with external agencies to catalyse climate action projects at community level.
Key Objective 4.5 Motivate and create demand for climate action through capacity building programmes, policy/financial instruments and local development and wellbeing programmes.
Key Objective 4.6 Pilot replicable demonstration projects and evaluate same.
Strategic Goal 5: Mobilise climate action in enterprise and support transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy
Key Objective 5.1 Embed climate change and the circular economy in implementation of all local economic strategies and Local Economic and Community Plans.
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
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)
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.
Key Objective 5.5 Support the growth and development of lower carbon enterprises through supplier development programmes that align with green procurement strategies.
Key Objective 5.6 Utilise best practice in promoting economic opportunities that arise from climate action with local enterprise.

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

Appendix B: Timeline of Climate Events




River flood
Pluvial flood
Extreme Precipitation
Severe windstorm
Storm surge
Coastal erosion
Coastal flood
Heavvy snowfall
Heatwave
Drought
Above average surface temperature
Increase in relative sea level
Above average precipitation
Cold spell
2003
2005
2010
2013
High tides & low pressure Oct 2004
High tides & Gales Oct 2004
High temperature/ heatwave Summer 2006
Heavy rain and flooding Aug 2008
Severe flooding Nov 2009
Winter cold spell Winter 2009/10
Snow Winter 2010
Hurricane Katia Sep 2011


River flood
Pluvial flood
Extreme Precipitation
Severe windstorm
Storm surge
Coastal erosion
Coastal flood
Heavvy snowfall
Heatwave
Drought
Above average surface temperature
Increase in relative sea level
Above average precipitation
Cold spell
2010
2015
2020
2023
Storm Dudly Feb 2022
Storm Eunice Feb 2022
Storm Frankie Feb 2022
Flood warning Mar 2022
Heatwave Jul 2022
Prolonged dry period Aug 2022
Flooding Aug 2022
Storm Danielle Sep 2022
Rainstorm Oct 2022
Mini Tornado Nov 2022
Severe Weather Nov 2022
Storm Eleanor Jan 2018
Storm Emma & Beast from the East Feb/Mar 2018
High temperatures, heatwave, drought Summer 2018
Storm Ali Sep 2018
Storm Callum Oct 2018
Storm Diana Nov 2018
Storm Deirdre Dec 2018
Storm Eric Dec 2018
Storm Brendan Jan 2020
Heatwave and prolonged heat Summer 2020
Storm Francis Aug 2020
Hurricane Katia Sep 2011
Coastal storm Jan 2014
Storm Darwin Feb 2014
Storm Imogen Feb 2016
Storm Frank Dec/Jan 2015/16
Winter storms Winter 2013/14
Snow Winter 2010/11
Storm Ophelia Oct 2017
Storm Lorenzo Oct 2019
Flooding and high tides Dec 2021
Storm Barra Dec 2021
Heavy rainfall Oct 2021
Heatwave and prolonged heat Summer 2021

Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

Active Travel Traveling with a purpose using your own energy, e.g cycling or walking to work rather than driving.

Biodiversity: The variety of animal and plant life in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

Blueway: A network of multi-activity recreational trails, based on or alongside idyllic lakes, canals and rivers in Ireland.

Built Heritage: The physical evidence of our cultural development and is an item that has value because of its contribution to a nation's society, knowledge and / or culture.

Carbon Offset: Reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere.

CFRAMS: Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management – A national approach to flood risk management examining the causes of significant flooding throughout each river basin district and producing integrated plans of specific measures to address the significant flood risk factors in acomprehensive and sustainable way.

Circular Economy: An economic model which is driven by the reuse, repair, sharing, repurposing, and recycling of existing products, tools and materials until no longer possible.

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015: An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy and to establish the Climate Change Advisory Council.

Climate Change Adaptation: Refers to dealing with the impact of climate change and taking practical action to manage risks, protect communities and strengthen resilience.

Climate Change: The climate can be described as the average weather over a period of time. Climate Change means a significant change in the measures of climate, such as temperature, rainfall, or wind, lasting for an extended period – decades or longer.

Climate Change Mitigation: Relates to changing how we live, move, consume, and manufacture to reduce and/or eliminate the production of harmful greenhouse gases. It also includes how we best use our land and includes Climate Change Adaptation.

Climate Variability: Deviations in climate statistics over a given period of time (such as a month, season or year), when compared to long term statistics for the same calendar period.

Critical Infrastructure: Term used by governments to describe assets that are essential for the functioning of a society and economy.

Cultural assets: Something that has value because of its contribution to a community's culture, meaning, traditions, knowledge, creativity and vitality.

Culverts: A structure that allows water to flow under a road, railroad, trail or similar obstruction from one side to the other side. It can be surrounded by soil and may be made from reinforced concrete, a pipe, or other material.

Decarbonisation: The reduction or removal of carbon dioxide from energy sources.

Decarbonisation Zone (DZ): A spatial area within a county designated to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures that then may be rolled out to other areas, if proven successful.

Ecosystems: A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

El Nino Effect: A climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean with a global impact on weather patterns.

EU Habitats Directive: Protects a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic species occurring in the European Union.

Green Energy: Energy derived from renewable sources with a low environmental impact and includes solar, wind, geothermal, biogas and hydroelectric energy. It is energy that can be produced in a way that protects the natural environment.

Green Infrastructure: A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation.

Green Schools: An international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes whole school action towards a sustainable environment through the implementation of a seven step methodology.

Greenhouse Gases: A gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infra-red radiation. Examples include: carbon dioxide, methane and chlorofluorocarbons.

Greenway: A dedicated cycling and walking route that can take a variety of forms either off road or on road within part of the verge or footway segregated from motorized traffic. Benefits include facilitating modal shift, improving air quality and sustainably connecting people to places.

Heat Stress: When your body can no longer regulate your temperature and you become too hot. This can occur in hot temperatures, high sun exposure or high humidity. Heat stress can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Human systems: Systems created by humans including human settlements, transportation routes, communication systems, economics, infrastructure and energy.

ICARUS: The Irish Climate Analysis and Research Unit is part of the Department of Geography at Maynooth University and a national leader in the area of climate change.

Inland Fisheries Ireland: State agency responsible for the protection, management and conservation of Ireland's inland fisheries and sea angling resources.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): A United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, the IPCC provides policymakers with regular scientific assessments on climate change, its implications and potential future risks as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation options.

Invasive Species: A species that is not native to a specific location (an introduced species), and that has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health.

ISO 50001: A global standard for organizations to develop and improve their energy management systems through a framework of requirements.

LEADER Partnership (County Wexford) : One of over fifty Local Development Companies in Ireland responsible for the delivery of a range of rural, enterprise, social inclusion, and community development initiatives.

National Adaptation Framework (NAF): Sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts. The NAF was developed under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

National Mitigation Plan (NMP): Initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the level of decarbonisation required. It is a whole of Government Plan, reflecting in particular the central roles of the Key Ministers responsible for the sectors covered by the plan – Electricity Generation, the Built Environment, Transport and Agriculture, as well as drawing on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of other Government Departments.

National Pollinator Plan: Also known as the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, which aims to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive. The plan identifies what can be done to achieve this by Local Authorities, farmers, businesses, communities, and schools.

Natural Systems: Open systems where their existence depends upon effects beyond their borders. They are created over millions of years of evolution in a changing world, where the climate and the layout of the land have interacted with the distribution and composition of life.

Office of Public Works (OPW): The OPW is a service organisation and is the leading agency for flood risk management in Ireland with responsibility for minimising the impacts of flooding through sustainable planning

Public Realm: Broadly refers to those areas of a town or city to which the public has access. It includes streets, footpaths, parks, squares, bridges and public buildings and facilities.

Solar PV: Panels that use the energy from the Sun for creation of renewable electricity and/or hot water for homes and business.

South-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020: Builds on the success of the South -East Regional Action Plan for Jobs (2016-2017) to ensure that it remains effective and that it continues to deliver jobs across the South-East region and can be robust to address challenges including Brexit.

Special Areas of Conservation: Prime wildlife conservation areas in the country, considered to be important on a European as well as Irish level.

Special Protection Areas: A designation under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Under the Directive, Member States of the European Union (EU) have a duty to safeguard the habitats of migratory birds and certain particularly threatened birds.

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC): These committees allow both elected representatives and local sectoral interests the opportunity to become more involved in policy formulation at local level. The committees allow people with relevant expertise to work alongside the elected representatives in contributing to and developing Council policy in a spirit of partnership.

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is Irelands national sustainable energy authority. They work with householders, businesses, communities and government to create a cleaner energy future.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) The 17 SDGs laid adopted my UN Member States aim to "end poverty, protect the planet and improve lives and prospects of everyone everywhere".

Sustainable Energy Communities (SECS): A community that works together to develop a sustainable energy system. To do so, they aim to be energy efficient, use renewable energy and consider smart energy solutions.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS): Are planting systems in urban streetscapes designed to mitigate surface water run off. They have multiple benefits including reducing flooding and soil erosion while providing habitat for wildlife.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII): is the merger of the National Roads authority and the Railway Procurement Agency. It is their mission to deliver transport infrastructure and services, which contribute to the quality of life for the people of Ireland and support the country's economic growth.

The 2013 EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change: Adopted by the European Commission in April 2013 it sets out a framework and mechanisms for taking the EU's preparedness for current and future climate impacts to a new level.

The National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development 2014: The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

The Paris Agreement 2015: At COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. The Paris Agreement brought all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so.

Tipping Points: A tipping point in the climate system is a threshold that, when exceeded, can lead to large changes in the state of the system.

Topographical: The arrangement or accurate representation of the physical features of an area.

Urban Heat: Occurs in metropolitan or urban areas that are significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas due to human activities such as the modification of land surfaces.

County Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN): A network of community & voluntary groups, clubs & organisations working at local level throughout County Wexford. It is involved in informing, developing and representing its member groups and is the structure through which the community voice and local expertise can be fed into a number of local decision-making bodies.

Acronyms

AA Appropriate Assessment
AIPP All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
BEI Baseline Emissions Inventory
BER Building Energy Rating
CARO Climate Action Regional Office
CCAP Community Climate Action Programme
CCBDEnv SPC Climate Change Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee
CCMA County and City Management Association
CCRA County Climate Change Risk Assessment
DECA Delivering Effective Climate Action
DHLGH Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DoT Department of Transport
DRCD Department of Rural and Community Development
DZ Decarbonising Zone
EIP European Innovation Partnership
EMRA Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly
EPA Environmental Protection Agency
ESB Electricity Supply Board
ETB Education and Training Board
EU European Union
EV Electric Vehicle
GAA Gaelic Athletics Association
GHG Greenhouse Gas
HBPA High Performance Building Alliance
HVO Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil
IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IBF Irish Bioeconomy Foundation
LACAP Local Authority Climate Action Plan
LASNTG Local Authority Services National Training Group
LAWPRO Local Authority Water Programme
LCDC Local Community Development Committee
LEO Local Enterprise Office
LGMA Local Government Management Agency
LULUCF Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
MD Municipal District
NBS Nature-based Solutions
NAF National Adaptation Framework
NDCA National Dialogue on Climate Action
NTA National Transport Authority
NZEB Nearly Zero Energy Build
OPW Office of Public Works
PPN Public Participation Network
RAMSAR – UN Convention on Wetlands
SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEAI Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SAC Special Areas of Conservation
SEEA South East Energy Agency
SETU South Eastern Technological University
SICAP Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
SMART Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time-related
SPA Special Protection Area
SPC Strategic Policy Committee
SUDS Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
TASC Think Tank for Action on Social Change
TII Transport Infrastructure Ireland
UN United Nations
UNESCO United Nations Educations, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WWETB Waterford Wexford Education and Training Board
ZEVI Zero Emission Vehicle Ireland

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Online Tools Used in the Development of this plan
Central Statistics Office – Interactive map Census 2016 and Census 2022
Environmental Protection Agency – GIS mapping
AARHUS – MapEire
SEAI – National BER Register Tool, National BER Research Tool

This is a list of the sources for statistical, factual and policy information contained within the climate action plan. It also has links to the relevant legislation, government and international body reporting and other sources.

If there is specific source that you would like more detail on and cannot locate please contact the climate action team at climateaction@wexfordcoco.ie.

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