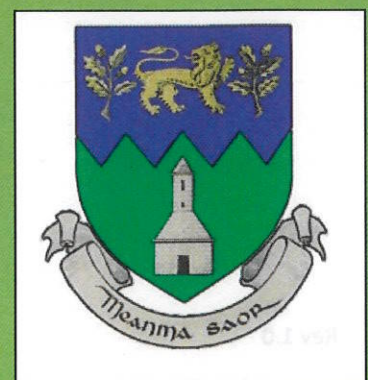


Wicklow County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Chief Executive's Report on Submissions



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

Wicklow County Council has prepared a draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. This local authority climate change adaptation strategy forms part of Ireland's national strategy for climate adaptation as set out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was produced under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

It is tasked with mainstreaming climate change adaptation over time into all functions, operations and services of the local authority.

The draft strategy includes a range of actions across six No. High Level Goals including:

- Climate Change adaptation considerations are mainstreamed and integrated successfully into all functions and activities of the local authority ensuring operational protocols, procedures and policies implement an appropriate response in addressing the diversity of impacts associated with climate change
- Increased capacity for climate resilient structural infrastructure is centred around the effective management of climate risk, informed investment decisions and positive contribution towards a low carbon society
- Sustainable policies and measures are devised influencing positive behavioural changes, supporting climate adaptation actions and endorsing approaches for successful transition to low carbon and climate resilient society.
- Great understanding of risks and consequences of flooding and successful management of a co-ordinated approach to drainage and flooding
- Fostering meaningful approaches to protecting natural and key cultural assets through an appreciation for the adaptive capacity of the natural environment to absorb the impacts of climate change.
- Empowered and cohesive communities with strong understanding of climate risks, increased resilience to impacts of climate change with capacity to champion climate action at local level

As part of the process of making this strategy a period of public consultation was undertaken from the 7th of June to the 5th of July 2019 inclusive. 94 no. submissions were received within the timeframe specified, with two further included arising from discussion with the regional office CARO.

This report on submissions received summarises and details the outcome of the public consultation stage and contains the following:

- List of persons or bodies who made submissions or observations on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- Summary of all issues raised by the persons or bodies in the submissions or observations; and
- Consideration, response and recommendation to the issues raised.

1.2 Background

Ireland's first statutory National Adaptation Framework (NAF) was published in January 2018. This 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. The NAF outlines a whole of government and society approach to climate adaptation in Ireland. Under the NAF, a number of Government Departments are required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans in relation to a priority area for which they are responsible. Each Local Authority is also required to make a local adaptation strategy with an expected timeframe for completion by 30 September 2019.

As the level of government closest to local communities and enterprise and as first responders in many emergencies, it is acknowledged that local authorities are uniquely placed to effect real positive change with respect to delivery of the national transition objective to a low carbon and a climate resilience future.

The local authority adaptation strategy takes on the role as the primary instrument at local level to:

- (i) ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change
- (ii) bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner
- (iii) ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of the local authority.

2.0 Public Consultation

2.1 Public Consultation

Public consultation on the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was carried out over a four week period from the 7th of June to the 5th of July 2019.

97 submissions were received within the timeframe specified.

The following documents were subject to the public consultation process:

- The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy as guided by the Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines (Dec, 2018),
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004 as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011).
- The Appropriate Assessment screening report undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (directive 92/43/EEC).

2.2 Details of the Public Consultation Process

Methodology used for consultation with key stakeholders.

- Newspaper Notice in three local papers.
- Wicklow.ie
- Social media
- Public Participation Network
- Public presentations in Kilcoole and Bray
- Radio
- Engagement with adjoining Local Authorities...
- The CARO engaged with the Departments responsible for the development of sectoral adaptation plans inviting them to review the local authority adaptation strategies and to make submissions.
- The CARO identified key high level stakeholders according to their importance and relevance to the subject matter of local authority adaptation strategies and invited them to review the local authority adaptation strategies and to make submissions.

2.3 Submissions

The table below identifies the submissions which were received within the timeframe. Each submission is further detailed in Appendix 1.

| Sub No. | Name/Organisation |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Gas Networks Ireland |
| 2. | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) |
| 3. | The Bray Heads University of the Third Age Climate Action Sub-group |
| 4. | Public Participation Network |
| 5. | The Green Party |
| 6. | Jean Melia |
| 7. | Emma Flood |
| 8. | Claire O'Connor |
| 9. | Leigh Kenny |
| 10. | Tina Maxwell |
| 11. | Muriel Joyce |
| 12. | Carol Duffy |
| 13. | Christine Downey |
| 14. | Kelly Conlon |
| 15. | Margaret Dickenson |
| 16. | Fiona Tuite |
| 17. | Catriona Ridgeway |
| 18. | Kemp Kempies |
| 19. | Linda Murphy |
| 20. | Lynn Kavanagh |
| 21. | Evie Madden |
| 22. | Carol O'Connor |

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| 23. | Yvonne O'Reilly |
| 24. | Samantha Duffy |
| 25. | Ciara Kavanagh |
| 26. | Eimear Tuite |
| 27. | Seamus Gallagher |
| 28. | Cassie Steele |
| 29. | Helen Larkin |
| 30. | Geraldine Flanagan |
| 31. | Sally Phelan |
| 32. | Jennifer McHugo |
| 33. | Keith Scanlon |
| 34. | Charlie Keddy |
| 35. | Comhairle na nóg |
| 36. | Donagh McGowan |
| 37. | Cllr. Mary Kavanagh |
| 38. | Lisa Dickenson |
| 39. | Pat Tyrrell |
| 40. | Kelly Ann Conroy |
| 41. | Liz Grehan |
| 42. | Gerry O'Reilly |
| 43. | Donna Connolly |
| 44. | Siobhan Forde |
| 45. | Deirdre Burke |
| 46. | Stanley Kenny |
| 47. | Nora Gafney O'Connor |
| 48. | Margaret Stokes |
| 49. | Maeve Bracken |

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| 50. | Jackie O'Toole |
| 51. | Annmarie Roche |
| 52. | Tracy Doran |
| 53. | An Taisce |
| 54. | Sinead Wallace |
| 55. | Anna O'Rourke |
| 56. | Cllr. Dermot O'Brien |
| 57. | Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore |
| 58. | Andrea Nolan |
| 59. | Tessa Stewart |
| 60. | Keith Scanlon |
| 61. | Elizabeth Battye |
| 62. | Finnbar Howell |
| 63. | Wicklow Planning Alliance – Dr. Craig Bishop |
| 64. | Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht – Built Heritage |
| 65. | Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht – Archaeological Observations |
| 66. | Geological Survey of Ireland |
| 67. | Delgany Community Council |
| 68. | Newtownmountkennedy Community Forum |
| 69. | Lynsey Lynch |
| 70. | Eileen O'Mahony Bowe |
| 71. | Stephen McNabb |
| 72. | Muriel Koyce |
| 73. | Ann Scanlon |
| 74. | Alex Pigot |
| 75. | Zofia Howell - KRA |
| 76. | Irish Business for Climate Action |
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| 77. | Rosemary Warner |
| 78. | Antoinette Whelan |
| 79. | Mary-Anne Parsons |
| 80. | Fiona O Farrell |
| 81. | Donna Scanlon |
| 82. | Alice O'Donnell |
| 83. | Adele Meenan |
| 84. | Dr. Patricia Cusack |
| 85. | Sophia Meeres |
| 86. | Eoin Llewellyn |
| 87. | Matt Wilson |
| 88. | Irish Water |
| 89. | Andrew Scanlon |
| 90. | Niamh McGinty |
| 91. | David Sullivan |
| 92. | Joan Campbell |
| 93. | Rory Fallon |
| 94. | Office of Public Works |
| 95. | Sylvester Bourke |
| 96. | CARO |
| 97. | CARO |

2.4 Proposed Amendments and Additions arising from Submissions

Table 1 below identifies 23 new actions and 3 amended actions which are recommended as a result of submissions received.

| New Action | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.20 | Assess the range and scope of existing mitigation measures already undertaken by WCC and those that will be required under the Climate Action Plan. |
| 1.21 | Develop and deliver training and awareness campaigns on climate action for WCC staff, elected representatives and communities. |
| 1.22 | Develop a green procurement strategy for WCC, which will stipulate where specific conditions are to be assessed prior to procurement. |
| 1.23 | Create a climate and biodiversity special policy committee (SPC), to examine climate and biodiversity policy, advise and monitor the work of WCC on climate action and implementation of this strategy. The SPC should have representation from the elected members of WCC and other stakeholders in the County. |
| 1.24 | Provide an update on progress with the Climate Adaptation Strategy and on climate mitigation measures in the CE's Monthly Report. |
| 1.25 | Liaise, collaborate and work in partnership with the sectors identified in the NAF, subject to funding and resources in the delivery of the Government approved sectoral adaptation actions, where they relate to and are relevant to the functions and activities of the council at local level or in local communities. |
| 2.9 | All new buildings to be built by WCC or on it's behalf to consider best available practice in ensuring buildings contribute to climate action through their design; considering a range of design options that will include, but not be restricted to, use of low carbon materials, insulation of the building fabric, green roofs, use of photovoltaics and rainwater harvesting, taking account of government policy, design standards and guidelines. |
| 2.10 | Engage with Irish Water to ensure collaboration on the provision of sustainable water services and the maintenance of good water quality. |
| 2.11 | Undertake a review of the current status of coastal erosion and protection measures, identifying areas that are vulnerable to increasing sea levels through CEFRAM Maps in order to assess the effects of increasing tidal levels and inundation events. |

| | New Action |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.12 | Discuss with the OPW implementing a monitoring and inspection programme for vulnerable areas of coast, coastal protection works, exposed roads and railways, harbours, piers, marinas and quays, to identify works that would protect them against rising sea levels. |
| 2.13 | Collaborate with relevant external agencies to identify, fund and programme works to protect coastal infrastructure assets. |
| 3.7 | Prepare a map of County Wicklow that projects increased tidal levels heights at the year 2050. |
| 4.9 | Develop a scheme to ensure clearing and repairing of gullies and drains in all municipal districts. |
| 5.10 | Undertake a study to identify natural corridors in County Wicklow and measures that can be taken to improve connectivity along these corridors and increase connectivity between corridors. |
| 5.11 | Appoint consultants to carry out an assessment of works necessary to protect wetland and dune system sites identified as vulnerable which act as a natural defence to rising sea levels. |
| 6.11 | Develop a steering group to explore and develop common goals and objectives between Wicklow County Council and representatives from the farming, forestry, NPWS and land owners in rural and upland areas of the county. |
| 6.12 | Support the delivery of climate action awareness and education in County Wicklow schools through Green Schools and associated environmental awareness initiatives. |
| 6.13 | Review Wicklow Food Strategy to assess which goals and actions, including those developing local products, local markets and allotments, can help delivery on climate action. |
| 6.14 | Support local groups in undertaking suitable climate action projects through advice, information, grants and service support. |
| 6.15 | Expand the reach of WCC's annual Tidy Towns and Environmental Awards to engage a greater range of groups, give greater recognition to work done by schools and recognise a greater range of environmental activities that help to address climate change. |
| 6.16 | Facilitate cooperation between the CCSD SPC , Economic and Enterprise SPC and Transport Water and Emergency Services SPC, to ensure they coordinate measures to reduce dependence by the public on commuting for work, identifying measures to provide car independent work opportunities. |

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| 6.17 | Develop a section of the Wicklow.ie website to provide information on climate change, the Climate Adaptation Strategy, climate mitigation measures and to report on progress towards targets. |
| 6.18 | Create a database of clean technologies operating in Wicklow, technologies offered elsewhere in Ireland and new technologies being developed outside of Ireland as a tool to focus attention on developing this sector in County Wicklow. |

| Amended Action | |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1 | Identify and integrate climate change as a critical consideration and guiding principle informing core strategy of the County Development Plan, Local Area Plans, Heritage Plans, Transportation Plans, Tourism and Economic Plans incorporating best practice as a guiding principle where feasible and appropriate. |
| 1.15 | Undertake a staff commuter survey, with results used to assess the feasibility of remote working days, promotion of car pooling, cycling and walking to work. |
| 5.1 | Develop a strategy to undertake and implement an active Tree Planting programme with mapping of sites suitable for planting in the context of climate adaptation in conjunction with an awareness campaign that informs of the benefits to communities in improving air quality, offsetting carbon emissions, promoting biodiversity, limiting flood risk, reducing urban heat, as well aesthetic value. |

3.0 Environmental Assessment

3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

The proposed amendments to the draft adaptation strategy as recommended in this report have been screened in accordance with the EC (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI 435 of 2004 as amended by SI 200 of 2011). Based on the pre-screening check and review of the amendments against the environmental criteria as set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive, a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. The screening report and final determination accompany the final adaptation strategy.

3.2 Appropriate Assessment

The proposed amendments to the draft adaptation strategy as recommended in this report were screened in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) to determine if they are likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 sites. No significant effects were identified — the AA screening report accompanies the final adaptation strategy.

4.0 Chief Executive's Recommendation

4.1 Additions and Amendments

The submissions received during the timeframe specified for public consultation have been examined and considered in the context of their relevance and added value to the adaptation strategy.

Accordingly, amendments and additions, as listed above in Table 1 of Section 2, are being recommended for inclusion in the County Wicklow Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

The revised strategy has undergone assessment in accordance with the provisions of SEA regulations and the provisions of the Habitats Directive.

The Strategy, including the proposed additions and amendments, SEA Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report is now presented to you, the Elected Members of Wicklow County Council, for approval.

4.2 Further Recommendations

Submissions raised many issues relating to mitigation and biodiversity, which while not appropriate for consideration in this document, can be of value to the work of the Climate and Biodiversity Special Policy Committee. All submissions made during the public consultation will be made available to the Climate and Biodiversity SPC for consideration.



Mr Frank Curran
Chief Executive

26/8/19

Date