

Wicklow County Council

Climate Action Plan

2024 - 2029



2024 Implementation Report for Elected Members & Stakeholders

June 2025



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

2024 IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR ELECTED MEMBERS & STAKEHOLDERS

Table of Contents:

1.0 Introduction.....	5
1.1 Purpose of the Report.....	5
1.2 Methodology and Format of Report.....	5
2.0 Climate Action Plan Overview:	7
2.1 County Actions.....	7
3.0 Leadership and Governance	10
3.1 Governance Structure.....	10
3.2 Mainstreaming of Climate Action in our Plans and Operations	13
3.3 Integration of Climate Related Risks	16
3.4 Capital Climate Action Financial Planning.....	16
3.5 Climate Action Reporting Framework.....	17
4.0 Delivering on Climate Action.....	18
4.1 Introduction	18
4.2 ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management.....	18
4.3 Energy Performance Update	19
4.4 Climate Mitigation Projects	22
4.5 Climate Adaptation Projects.....	29
4.6 Combined Projects	32
4.7 Community Engagement and Activation	34
5.0 CARO Reporting:	42
5.1 Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).....	42
5.2 Climate Action National Key Performance Indicators	43
5.3 Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan CARO Return	45

6.0 Arklow Decarbonisation Zone Actions	46
6.1 Introduction	46
6.2 Arklow DZ Climate Action Plan CARO Return.....	49
6.3 Arklow Decarbonising Zone Mitigation Actions.....	49
6.4 Arklow Decarbonising Zone Combined Actions	52
7 Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 Action Update for 2024	62
7.1 Theme 1: Governance & Leadership (GL) – 14 Actions	62
7.2 Theme 2: Built Environment & Transport (BET) – 24 Actions	66
7.3 Theme 3: Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure (NEGI) – 30 Actions	76
7.4 Theme 4: Communities Resilience & Transition (CRT) – 24 Actions	88
7.5 Theme 5: Sustainability & Resource Management (SRM) – 20 Actions	94
Appendix A: Wicklow County Council Action Implementation Data for KPI 2024 Return	100
Appendix B: Arklow Decarbonising Zone Action Implementation Data for KPI 2024 Return	128

Acknowledgments:

The climate action team wish to acknowledge the dedication and support for climate action by the various service areas of Wicklow County Council under the stewardship of the senior management team. We acknowledge the work and assistance of the elected members, Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee and the Corporate Policy Group.

Our communities are highly aware of the need for progressive and positive Climate Action and its contribution to our social and economic wellbeing, and Wicklow County Council is appreciative of the support and engagement of the wider community and the stakeholders we serve.

The Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office have been instrumental in assisting us on this journey and in compiling this report.

Finally sincere thanks to the employees of the council, and in particular the Climate Action Team, Climate Action Committee, Climate Action Delivery Committee and the Energy Team.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

This is the first progress report of the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. This progress report reflects the plan implementation period from January 2024 to December 2024. This is in line with the annual milestone of the adoption of the plan by elected members of Wicklow County Council.

Data and information contained within this report offer an accurate and transparent picture of progress in the first year of the plan implementation against the ambition of the plan which is aligned to the Government's National Climate Objective to achieve the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.

1.2 Methodology and Format of Report

The format of this report is informed by the reporting requirements for Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAP), the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan (CAP), recommendations of broader sustainability reporting frameworks^[1] and alignment with Agenda 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Accordingly, this report provides progress updates covering actions of the LACAP delivered and commenced in 2024 and presents information in line with the following strategic commitments:

Governance & Leadership

Oversight and procedural aspects of integrating climate related matters into governance processes, business and operational models and organisational and local policy instruments.

Climate Mitigation Targets

Progress on delivering prescribed emission reduction targets established by national climate policy for all public sector entities in line with reporting methodology of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

Climate Adaptation Goals

Measures to plan for and reduce vulnerability of local authority services and communities to climate change impacts, minimise risks and costs and protect lives and property by building resilience into natural and human systems.

¹ Including Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Frameworks and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) standards.

Delivery across Services

The diverse range of services and functions perform climate action through various policy areas, to support, facilitate and enable government departments, agencies and stakeholders to meet their climate goals at the local level and influence the value chain through Green Public Procurement.

Community Engagement & Activation

Actions that support community engagement, activity and capacity to build resilience to climate change impacts, reduce energy consumption and emissions and protect, restore and/or enhance biodiversity and work to achieve the objectives of the Decarbonising Zone(s) (DZ).

The report updates on progress of delivering actions pursued in 2024 from various themes of the plan. As part of this also, case studies are provided to highlight the value of actions being undertaken and how they are manifesting 'on the ground'.

Climate Actions and UN Sustainability Goals

The information detailed in the report details actions and their alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are "a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all"^[2]. They represent 17 social, economic and environmental priorities designed to combat the global challenges facing humanity by 2030. Wicklow County Council has an important part to play in progress toward the UN SDGs.



The LACAP has identified and mapped actions to the SDGs. Through this progress report, contributions to delivering on the UN SDGs through the delivery of actions, are reflected from an environmental perspective.

² UN Sustainable Development Goals: Available at: [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/)

2.0 Climate Action Plan Overview:

2.1 County Actions

Wicklow's Climate Action Plan specifies actions that the local authority will take across our services to meet national emissions targets and to increase resilience against climate change impacts. The Plan also specifies how we will work within communities to advocate for change with support from national government and state agencies to deliver on climate action. CARO developed five themes for the framing of climate action across all Council Plans. This approach allows the delivery of a consistent approach across local authority plans. The five themes address strategic commitments made by local government through the Climate Charter and the National Climate Action Plan.

Our Climate Action Plan contains 112 actions (excluding DZ actions) across 5 thematic areas with the following action distribution across the themes:

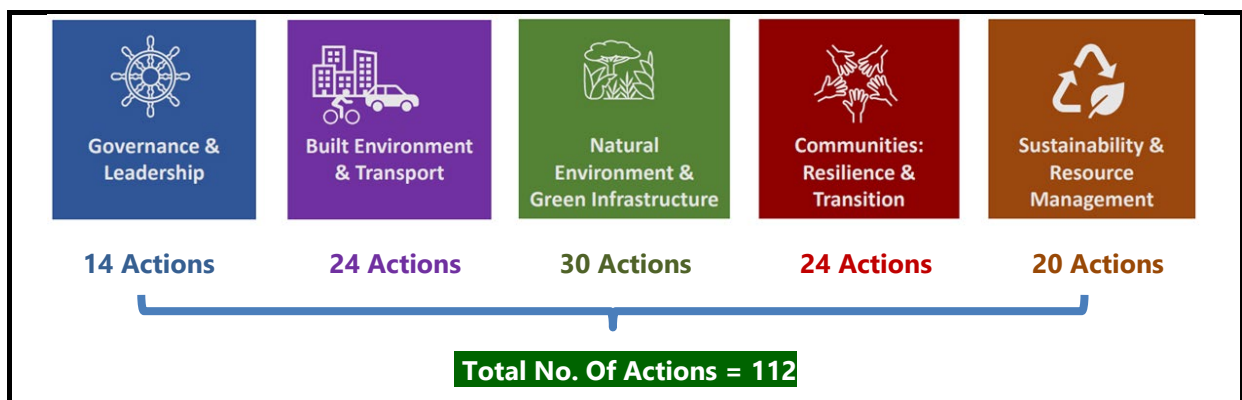


Figure 2.1 Action Number Breakdown Across Themes

Climate actions as set out in the CAP are delivered by the relevant assigned section. Designated members of the Climate Action Committee are responsible for annual reporting of actions to the Climate Change Coordinator.






	 Governance & Leadership	 Built Environment & Transport	 Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	 Communities: Resilience & Transition	 Sustainability & Resource Management
Actions Commenced in 2024	14	21	24	21	18
Actions Completed	6	4	3	3	0
Actions Completed and ongoing	6	5	11	11	10
Total Number of Actions in Progress	2	12	10	7	8
Actions to be commenced after 2024	0	3	6	3	2
Total Number of Actions	14	24	30	24	20

Table 2.1 Implementation Status of Actions

It was found that for the period 2024, that 88% (98) of the actions had commenced, with 35% (39) were classified as 'In progress' (with delivery timelines that extend to a period greater than a 12-month period) and it was found that 13% (14) actions had yet to commence. Out of the 112 actions in the Plan, 38% (43) of these are actions that are partially completed that recur annually.

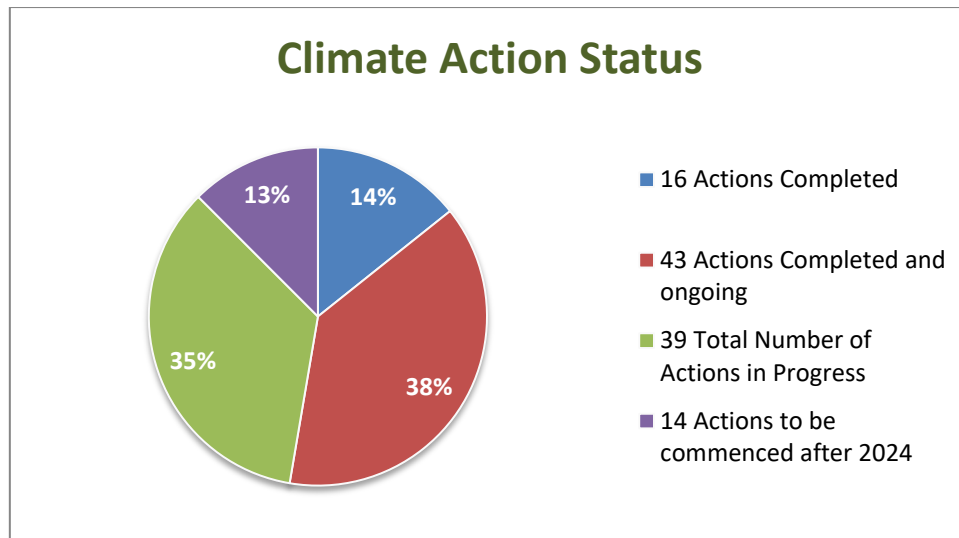


Figure 2.2 Action Status for County

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The CAP actions are classified by whether they relate to mitigation or adaptation to climate change or combined - actions that achieved both outcomes. It was found that 43% (48) relate to mitigation, 9% (10) relate to adaptation and 48% (54) related to combined adaptation and mitigation.

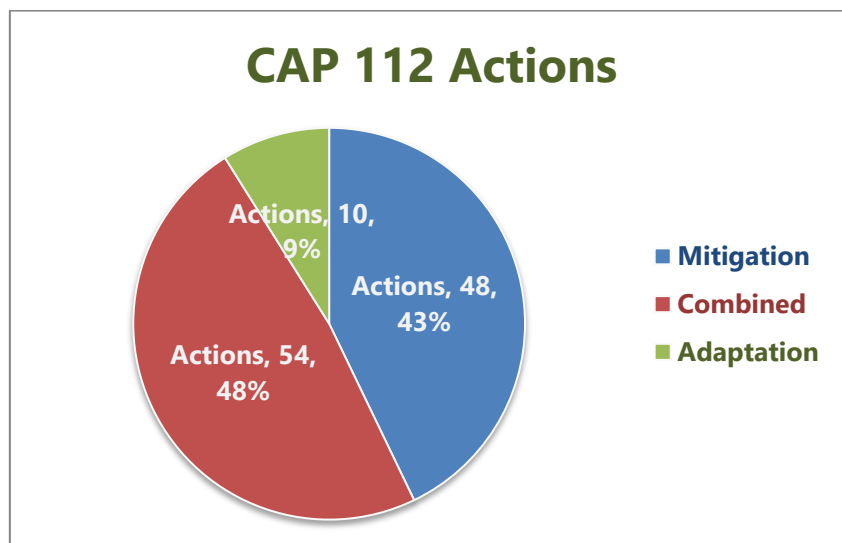


Figure 2.3 WCC CAP Action Type Breakdown

3.0 Leadership and Governance

3.1 Governance Structure

Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Officers are supported with funding from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). The core roles of the Climate Action Section comprise the following:

1. Climate Change Co-ordinator
2. Climate Action Officer
3. Community Climate Action Officer

Additional roles within the Climate Action Section which are supported internally by Wicklow County Council

- Biodiversity Officer
- Environment Awareness Officer
- Assistant Environment Awareness Officer
- Climate Action Graduate
- Assistant Staff Officer

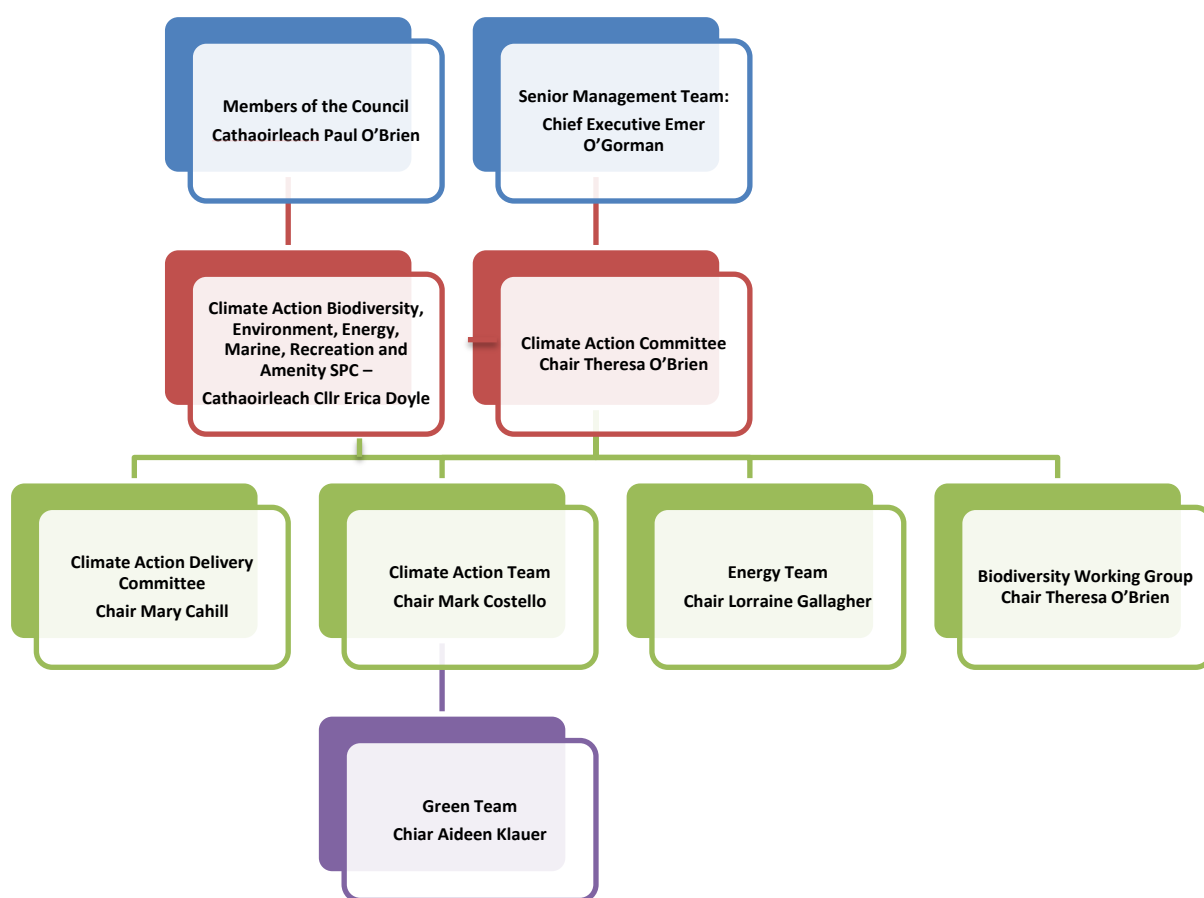


Figure 3.1 Climate Action Governance Structure

Climate Action is delivered throughout the various services of the council with the support of the Governance Structure as shown in figure 3.1. This structure shows that the Leadership Team of the council comprising of the Cathaoirleach, Elected Members, Chief Executive and Senior Management Team essentially have the responsibility for ensuring that Climate Action is delivered across the organisation. Our Climate Action Plan commits both the Elected Members and the Executive of the Council in taking both Adaptation and Mitigation Actions to reach the public sector emission reduction targets.

Climate action will remain a standing agenda item at Corporate Policy Group meetings and Senior Management Team meetings. It will also be integrated into policy development across all Strategic Policy Committees. Specifically, the **Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine, Recreation and Amenity Strategic Policy Committee** will continue to prioritise climate and biodiversity issues. Furthermore, the plan will help inform the development of future Development Plans and Local Area Plans.

A dedicated **Climate Action Committee** lead by two Director of Services with members at Senior Executive level (Grade 8's or equivalent) from various service areas of the council will collaborate with the Climate Action Coordinator and act as a steering group to ensure a focus on monitoring the delivery of actions, programme development and budgeting across all services.

The role of the **Climate Action Delivery Committee** is to collaborate with the Climate Action Coordinator in facilitating the Climate Action Committee in steering in the delivery of making the county climate resilient, assisting in the delivery of the actions of the Climate Action Plan, to help monitor progress of the actions, and to evaluate impacts of the plan.

A dedicated **Climate Action Team** which meets on a monthly basis ensures a continued focus on delivering on the Councils Climate Action Plan. This Team is chaired by the Climate Action Coordinator and includes CERA's Director of Service, Senior Engineer and the Senior Executive Officer. Other members include the Climate Action Officer, Community Climate Action Officer, Mid East Energy Manager, Energy Officer, Biodiversity Officer, Heritage Officer, Environmental Awareness Officer, Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer, Climate Graduate and an Assistant Staff Officer.

The **Energy Team** established in 2023 aims to continually improve the energy performance of Wicklow County Council. Over the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan the Energy Office will implement decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects across the range of services including public buildings, public lighting, fleet management and leisure centres provided by the Council in order to contribute to energy saving and emission reduction in compliance with national targets.

The **Biodiversity Working Group** chaired by the CERA Director Of Service will collaborate with the Biodiversity Officer and act as a steering group to ensure a focus reviewing the councils Biodiversity Action Plan on then ultimately monitoring the delivery of its actions and to further enhance programme development on restoring and protecting the county's biodiversity.

The Role of the **Green Team** is to support the Climate Action Team in promoting a greater awareness and understanding of Climate Change Issues throughout the organisation and to promote engagement in climate action, biodiversity, and nature based solutions across all activities and services delivered. The aim is to foster a sense of environmental awareness and responsibility among all Wicklow Local Authorities staff which will hopefully inspire and motivate them both inside and outside of the workplace.

The **Mid East Energy Unit (MEEU)** is a collaborative partnership between the four local authorities of Wicklow (lead authority), Meath, Louth and Kildare. The Energy Unit was formed to progress and deliver agreed public sector energy efficiency and carbon reduction targets, in partnership with SEAI and the support of CODEMA. MEEU provides advisory and technical services and enables Pathfinder Funding via Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to deliver energy efficiency works associated with significant energy users (SEUs) and district heating feasibility studies.

The Climate Action regional Offices (CARO)

coordinates and supports local authorities in delivering transformative change and measurable climate action.

Wicklow is located in the Eastern & Midlands CARO

region, this comprises of seventeen local authorities each with common challenges in both climate mitigation and adaption. Please refer to the CARO webpage for more details: [Home - CARO](#)

**3.2 Mainstreaming of Climate Action in our Plans and Operations**

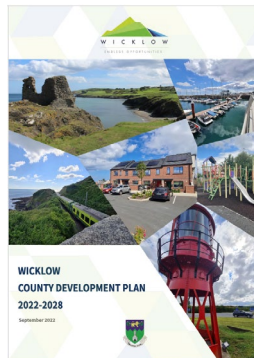
Wicklow County Council prioritises climate action across the functional and operational areas of the corporate body as reflected in Wicklow County Council's Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029 under Theme 2 Planet "To deliver climate resilient and regenerative biodiversity actions and maximise renewable energy opportunities in the County. Incorporate the sustainable development goals into our business strategies and support communities and business to deliver on climate change targets in a fair and equitable way thereby protecting our environment now and for future generations" and as a core Value of the organisation. Aligning the goals and priorities of the Corporate Plan and our Annual Service Delivery Plans with the Climate Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a key step in ensuring that our local actions contribute to the global effort to build a sustainable future for everyone. Our 2024-2029 Climate Action Plan strategic goals, objectives and a total of 135 Actions over the following five themes also ensure the delivery of Climate throughout the services of the council.



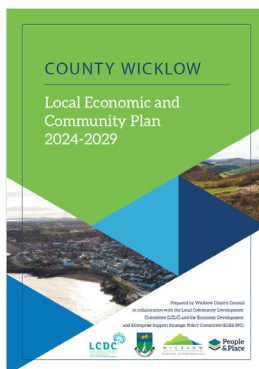
Action 2 GL which states "Maintain a Climate and Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to ensure development of policy. All other SPCs to ensure climate resilience are incorporated into policy development. Place Climate Action Policy as a Standing Item on Corporate Policy Group meetings" requires the Council to mainstream climate mitigation, adaptation and the SDG's considerations into all policies, strategies and plans adopted. In line with this action, climate action objectives and actions have been integrated into numerous policies, strategies and plans associated with the Council. Listed below are some key documents that will guide the County vision, functions and operations to sustainably progress social and economic growth.



[Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2024-2029](#)



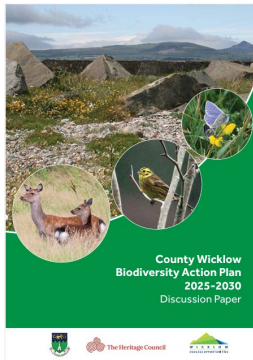
[Wicklow County Council Development Plan 2022-2028](#)



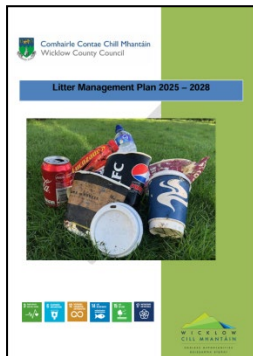
[Wicklow County Council Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029](#)



[Wicklow County Council Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Policy and Developer Guidance 2025](#)



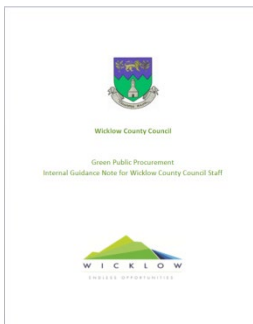
Wicklow County Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2028 –
Currently Under Draft Status



Wicklow County Council Litter Management Plan 2025-2028 –
Currently Under Draft Status



Guidelines for Increasing Alternatives to Herbicides in Public
Open Spaces 2024



Wicklow County Council Green Public Procurement Internal Guidance
Note for Wicklow County Council



Wicklow County Council Heritage Plan 2025 - 2030

3.3 Integration of Climate Related Risks

The Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT), a high-level team examining operational needs and risks around severe weather events, are consistently aware of, and continue to be updated on, the risks associated with climatic changes and their relevance for securing functional and operational needs of the corporate body to continue to function effectively and serve the community of Wicklow.

Climate risks and vulnerabilities identified in the risk register of the plan, were considered by the SWAT. The risk register highlighted an increase in the number as well as a projected increase in intensity of weather events which are being assessed as required. No additional items have been integrated at this time; however, the situation is being monitored.

3.4 Capital Climate Action Financial Planning

A strategic look at the capital and revenue budgets shows how the council is activating on climate action through political and statutory decision making while also acknowledging the Climate and Biodiversity Crises.

Our Capital Investment Programme 2024 – 2026 provides an indication of the investment the council would like to undertake over the forthcoming three years. The projects listed within the programme are dependent on the availability of funding. The CIP 2024-2026 details a potential investment of €649m of which €420m can be linked to the delivery of Major Climate Action Programmes as highlighted by the below items:

➤ LA Housing Capital Schemes, Purchases or Part V:	€254,700,000
➤ Existing Housing Fabric Upgrade, Management and Conditional surveys:	€24,215,000
➤ N11/M11 Interim Bus Scheme	€4,500,000
➤ Greenways:	€20,520,000
➤ NTA Schemes ie Active Travel	€25,400,000
➤ Public Lighting LED Upgrade:	€7,000,000
➤ Avoca Mines Restoration Works	€7,000,000
➤ Whitestown remediation Works:	€26,500,000
➤ Firestation Capital Upgrades:	€6,797,000
➤ Various Climate And Energy Projects:	€4,985,000
(including Shorelines, Bray MD, Greystones Library etc)	
➤ County Buildings Upgrade Works	€4,315,000
➤ Upgrade of Libraries (Ballywaltrim, Roofs etc.):	€10,150,000
➤ Avoca River Flood Relief Schemes:	€19,600,000
➤ Coastal Protection (Brittas, Arklow Etc):	€2,200,000
➤ Storm Drainage Upgrade and repairs:	<u>€2,500,000</u>
Total Climate Action Financial Planning Highlighted Above	<u>€420,382,000</u>

3.5 Climate Action Reporting Framework

Internal Reporting

The Council will provide reports to the **Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine, Recreation and Amenity Strategic Policy Committee** as required, and an end of year report will be made available to Elected Members annually. Annual progress reports will also be communicated via the Council's website.

Monitoring and Reporting

The council will continue to report on its emissions and energy performance annually to the Sustainable Authority of Ireland (SEAI) through the Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system.

Sectoral Performance

The council will report annually on its performance on climate action by way of KPIs to inform the performance of the local government sector on climate action, as part of the local government DECA 2030 Strategy.

National Climate Action Plan

The council will, in accordance with part 3(w) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter, report to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) on progress regarding climate action at County level as part of the delivery of the National Climate Objective. Progress on all actions will be reported via a CARO reporting tool.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

The SDG National Implementation Plan 2022-2024 has 5 Strategic Objectives. And Strategic Objective 2 is as follows: ***“To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs”***. In accordance with this objective Wicklow County Council five year [Climate Action Plan](#) contains five themes for framing climate actions across all the council's services. Our Plan lists 135 Actions which has been aligned with the 17 SDG's which focus on a monitored approach of the Councils core plans over the course of the plan. Everything that we do as an organisation is underpinned by the UN SDGs. From our award winning [SDG mapping tool](#) where 96 actions have already been added highlighting the delivery of the Goals, to our SDG library décor (where the SDGs are promoted through seating and wall art) promoting education within our communities, the SDGs are the cornerstone of all our services.

4.0 Delivering on Climate Action

4.1 Introduction

Wicklow County Council is actively delivering on Climate Action by prioritizing a balanced and comprehensive approach that includes mitigation, adaptation, and community engagement. Through targeted mitigation strategies, the Council is reducing greenhouse gas emissions by enhancing energy efficiency, supporting renewable energy projects, and promoting sustainable transport. Adaptation measures are being implemented to build resilience against the impacts of climate change, such as coastal erosion and extreme weather events, ensuring the long-term sustainability of local infrastructure and natural resources. Crucially, the Council emphasizes community engagement and activation, recognizing that meaningful climate action requires the participation of local residents, businesses, and organizations. By fostering awareness, encouraging behaviour change, and supporting grassroots initiatives, Wicklow County Council is empowering its communities to be active partners in shaping a climate-resilient and sustainable future.

Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 sets out a robust framework for the county's climate ambitions, featuring 112 actions at county level alongside 23 actions specifically for the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone. These actions span mitigation—such as energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy deployment, and sustainable transport—alongside adaptation measures like flood defences and nature-based solutions to protect infrastructure and shorelines. The Arklow pilot zone, with 23 tailored actions, will serve as an exemplar area to achieve our climate goals. Wicklow Council will achieve our ambitious targets through regular quarterly and annual reporting; the Council is ensuring accountability and steady progress toward both national and local targets, while empowering communities across Wicklow to embrace resilience and sustainability.

4.2 ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management

ISO 50001:2018 is an internationally recognised standard that provides a systematic framework for organisations to enhance their energy management practices and improve their energy use. It is designed to help organisations improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, lower operational costs and minimise their environmental impact.

Wicklow County Council was awarded ISO 50001 certification in Energy Management in September 2024 following an external auditing process. The Energy Management System has been implemented across the organisation and will assist in reducing energy use and carbon emissions. As part of our Energy Management System,

Wicklow County Council has formed an Energy Office in 2023, which aims to continually improve the energy performance of Wicklow County Council. Over the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan the Energy Office will implement decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects across the range of

services provided by the Council in order to contribute to energy saving and efficiency in compliance with national targets. The initiatives implemented by WCC will be monitored and reported on SEAI's database showcasing the progress towards 2030.

4.3 Energy Performance Update

Wicklow County Council is obligated to achieve a 51% reduction in GHG carbon emissions (based on a 2016-2018 baseline) and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency (based on a 2009 baseline) by 2030 under the Climate Action Plan 2023 set out by the government.

The SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system provides a platform for reporting on emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. In particular, it provides an annual breakdown of the 'Gap to Target' to achieve these targets. It should be noted that the 2024 figures are still provisional and have not been finally verified by SEAI, therefore final figures for 2024 are due to be published by the SEAI by end of Q2 2025.

For the purposes of this 2024 report the provisional data of Wicklow County Council's energy performance for the period 2024 is outlined below.

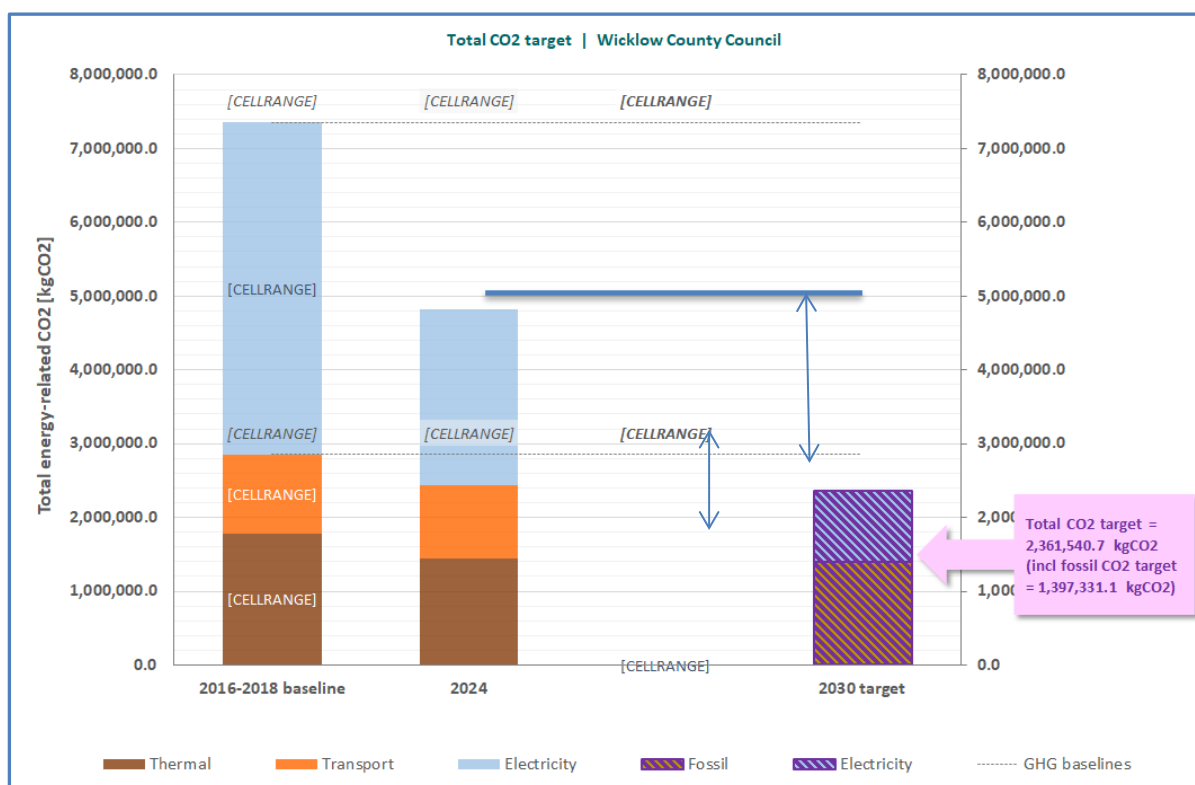


Figure 4.1 Wicklow County Council Total CO₂ Baseline v 2024 Progress v 2030 Target

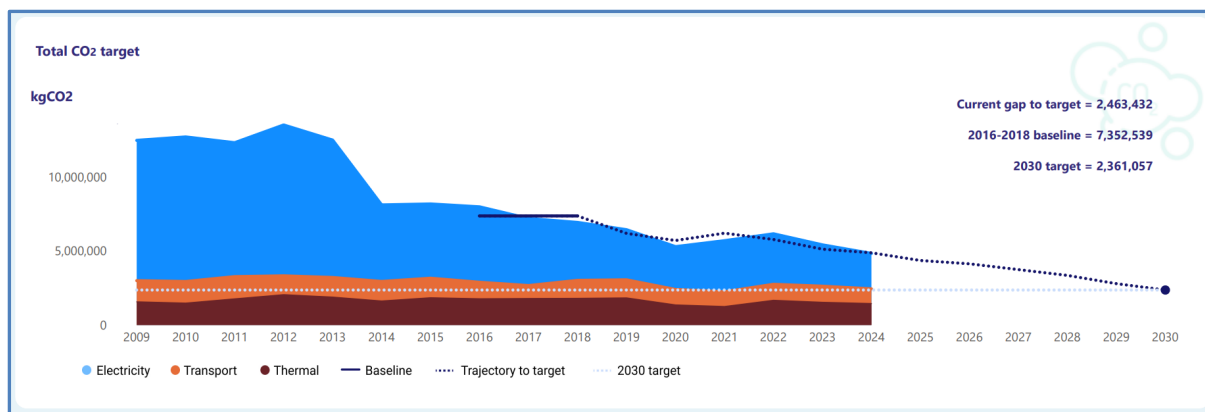


Figure 4.2 Total CO₂ Target

In 2024, total CO₂ emissions for Wicklow County Council were 34.4% below the 2016-2018 baseline of 7,352t CO₂. This is in part due to the decarbonisation of the national grid, and a gradual switch from fossil fuel heating to electric sources. Wicklow County Council must save an additional 2,463t CO₂ in the next 6 years to reach the 2030 target of 2,361t CO₂, (a 51.1% reduction within 6 years).

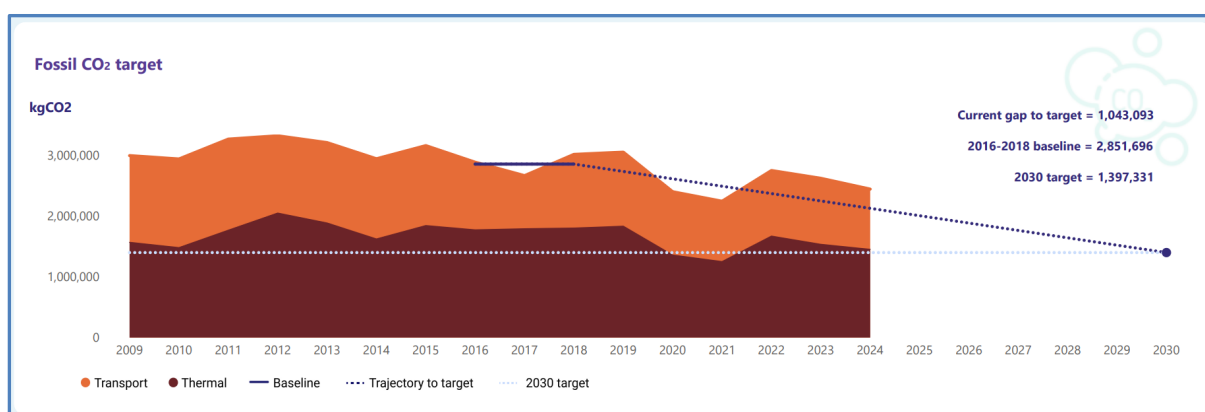


Figure 4.3 Fossil CO₂ Target

In 2024, total fossil fuel CO₂ emissions for Wicklow County Council were 14.4% below the 2016-2018 baseline of 2,851t CO₂. Wicklow County Council must save an additional 1,043t CO₂ in the next 6 years to reach the 2030 target of 1,397t CO₂ (a 42.7% reduction within 6 years).

For the council to reach the 2030 target the planned building energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects including our significant Energy Users such as the four Leisure Centres, County Buildings, other municipal buildings and Fleet Electrification must be delivered.

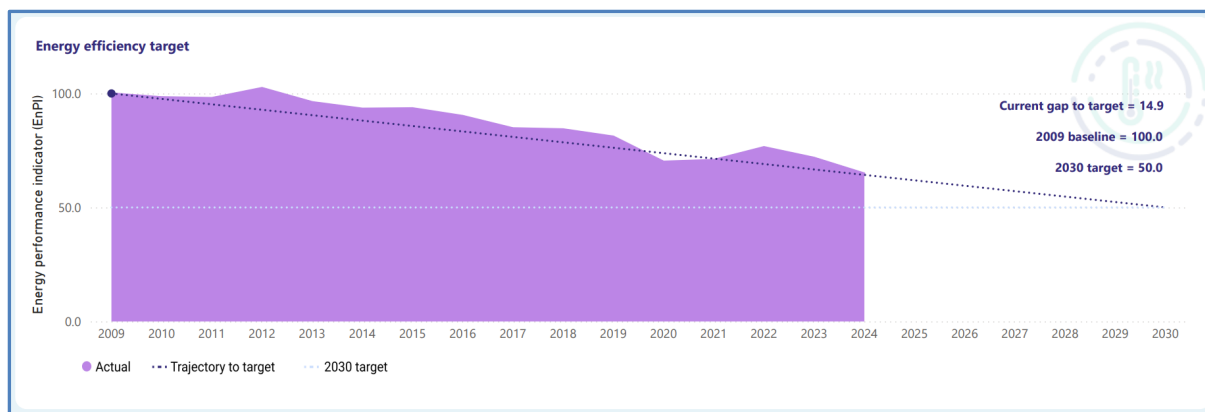


Figure 4.4 Energy Efficiency Target

In 2024, energy performance for Wicklow County Council has improved by 35.1% below the 2009 baseline. Wicklow County Council must improve by another 14.9% within 6 years to reach the 2030 target.

4.4 Climate Mitigation Projects



Figure 4.5 Bray Fire Station

Energy Works Bray Fire Station

In 2024, Bray Fire Station became a national exemplar of climate mitigation within the public sector, following its successful transformation into Wicklow County Council's first fully decarbonised building. This landmark project demonstrates how local authorities can take decisive action to reduce emissions, improve energy performance, and lead by example in the delivery of Ireland's 2030 climate targets.

Identified as one of the largest fossil fuel users in the Council's building stock, Bray Fire Station underwent a deep retrofit, addressing both energy demand and supply. The project delivered a **60% reduction in overall energy consumption** and **100% elimination of direct carbon emissions**, representing a significant contribution to climate mitigation at the local level.

Key climate-focused interventions included:

- Decommissioning of gas-fired heating systems and installation of a renewable air-to-water heat pump, with new zoning, radiators, and controls.
- Installation of rooftop solar PV, generating clean electricity on-site.
- Full building fabric upgrades, including insulation of walls and roofs, replacement of single glazing with A-rated double-glazed windows, and new insulated appliance bay doors.
- LED lighting retrofit, enhancing energy efficiency across all internal and external lighting.

Supported through the **SEAI Pathfinder Programme** and delivered by a cross-functional team from the Mid-East Energy Unit, Wicklow Fire Service, and the Wicklow County Council Energy Office, this project illustrates how cross-agency collaboration can drive scalable climate solutions.

With the building's energy rating improved from **E1 to B1**, the project sets a replicable standard for retrofitting emergency services and other public buildings. It also builds institutional capacity within Wicklow and the broader Mid-East region to deliver similar climate mitigation projects in the years ahead. The Bray Fire Station project is a powerful example of climate leadership in action, reinforcing the role of the public sector in achieving Ireland's climate goals while delivering long-term value and resilience to communities.



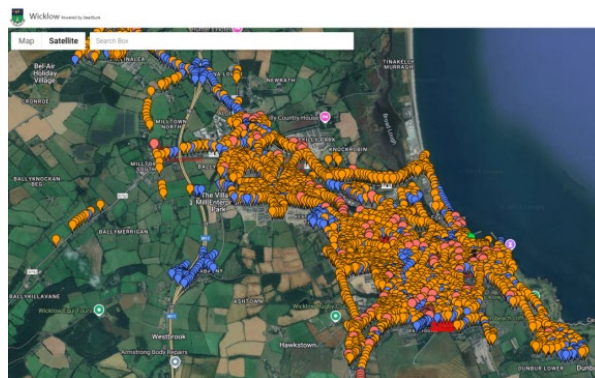
Social Housing: Monastery Grove Retrofit Scheme:

The Monastery Grove Retrofit Scheme stands as a benchmark in climate mitigation at the community level, demonstrating how deep energy retrofitting can play a vital role in addressing the climate crisis. By upgrading 29 homes to achieve a Building Energy Rating (BER) of B2 or better, the project delivers tangible reductions in carbon emissions, improves energy efficiency, and futureproofs homes against escalating climate and energy challenges.

Key Climate Mitigation Outcomes:

- **Carbon Emissions Reduction:** The transition to air-to-water heat pumps, enhanced insulation, and energy-efficient glazing has significantly cut reliance on fossil fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions per dwelling.
- **Energy Demand Decrease:** The comprehensive retrofit has lowered primary energy usage, contributing to national energy efficiency targets and the goals set out in Ireland's Climate Action Plan.
- **Sustainable Heating Solutions:** Heat pumps and zoned heating systems ensure minimal energy waste and align with the move toward electrified, low-carbon heating solutions.
- **Behavioural Change and Community Impact:** The project has inspired adjacent private homeowners to retrofit their properties, multiplying the carbon savings and embedding a culture of sustainability within the community.
- **Long-Term Resilience:** By creating homes that are energy efficient and climate-adapted, the scheme enhances the resilience of low-income households to future energy price volatility and extreme weather conditions.

The Monastery Grove initiative exemplifies how local authorities and contractors can partner effectively to meet environmental goals while also improving quality of life. As a scalable and replicable model, it demonstrates that socially inclusive climate mitigation is not only achievable but essential.



Public Lighting:

County Wicklow has made significant strides in climate mitigation through the large-scale retrofit of public lighting systems with energy-efficient LED lanterns. As of August 2024, 10,671 out of 15,603 public lights representing 68.4% of the network have been successfully converted to LED technology. This transition is a central part of the county's climate action plan, aimed at reducing carbon emissions and energy demand from public infrastructure. The shift to LEDs has already contributed to a noticeable drop in electricity usage, leading to more sustainable energy management across the region.

In total, the county's public lighting currently consumes 4,814 MWh of electricity annually. However, with each LED light fitting saving an average of 151.4 kWh per year, the retrofit program is delivering substantial energy savings and emission reductions. The Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP), which began in parallel with ongoing maintenance-based replacements, further accelerates this progress. Data collected through cloud-based monitoring tools ensures precise tracking of energy performance and helps identify areas for continued improvement.

County Wicklow's long-term objective is to achieve 100% LED coverage by the end of 2025 through a combined approach of scheduled maintenance upgrades and PLEEP retrofits. This comprehensive plan not only supports Ireland's national climate targets but also generates financial savings through reduced operational costs and improved system longevity. The county's investment in smart, energy-efficient lighting infrastructure exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to climate resilience and public service sustainability.

Active Travel

Wicklow County Council continues to lead in the delivery of high-quality active travel infrastructure, backed by its dedicated Active Travel Section. In 2024, the Council was awarded €8,500,000 from the Department of Transport, supporting 30 Active Travel projects across the county. This funding is part of a broader €283 million national investment by the National Transport Authority (NTA) into walking and cycling infrastructure.

2024 Completed Projects to Date:

- Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities: 530m of new footpath
- Arklow South Improvements: 1.4km of footpath, 2.8km of cycle track, upgraded zebra crossings, and junction safety improvements
- Greystones Pathfinder (Church Road Upgrade): 400m shared vehicle/cyclist carriageway, 2 junction narrowing's, and a new zebra crossing
- Kilcoole Road: 430m of new footpath
- Completed Safe Routes to School works at 4 schools:
 1. St Michael and Peter Junior School, Arklow
 2. St. Kevin's National School, Greystones
 3. St. John's Senior National School, Arklow
 4. Scoil Nioclais Naofa, Dunlavin

In 2025 Funding of €8,650,000 was received from the NTA including the following key projects including:

- Bray Dart Interchange Scheme
- Wicklow Port Access Road Link
- Wicklow and Greystones Pathfinder Projects
- Safe Routes to School projects at 8 schools
- Ongoing walking and cycling infrastructure improvements across all five municipal districts

Additionally, specific allocations were made toward the bus stop enhancement programme, improving public transport accessibility.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII):

€2.2 million 2024 allocation toward Greenways:

1. €1.8M for the Blessington Greenway (Lake Loop).
2. €500k for the Arklow–Shillelagh Greenway corridor.
3. €200k for planning the Wicklow–Greystones Greenway, covering approx. 20 km
4. An additional €250k to Wicklow County Council for future greenway research and design

In 2025 Wicklow will receive a significant allocation of €1.65 million dedicated to key greenway projects, including:

1. €500,000 towards the Greystones to Wicklow Greenway,
2. €500,000 to the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway,
3. €200,000 to Blessington E - Blessington Lake Loop.
4. €150,000 allocated to the N11 Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Road,
5. €50,000 to 'Local Authority Support 2025'
6. €250,000 to 'Local Authority Greenways/Active Travel Support 2025'.

With annual funding expected to continue at similar levels through 2030, Wicklow County Council is firmly committed to enhancing sustainable, safe, and accessible transport options for all.

Scheme Focus: Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Improvement Scheme:

Arklow South Cycle & Pedestrian Improvement Scheme was developed to enhance pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure along the R-772, between M11 Junction 21 and the Knockmore Roundabout, on the outskirts of Arklow Town.

The initiative addresses the increasing need for safer and more accessible transport options for local residents, commuters and recreational users. With a focus on providing a dedicated 2.8km cycle track and 1.4km pedestrian footpath, designed to reduce reliance on motorized transport, encourage sustainable travel, and improve safety for all users

WCC are aiming to promote a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle which will contribute to a greener environment, aligning with key plans and focused on sustainability continuing relevance and positive impact for years to come.

The Scheme offers benefits to the community in terms of safety, health, and environmental sustainability. By upgrading pedestrian and cycling infrastructure along a key route in the town, the project enhances mobility for both commuters and recreational users.

Benefits:

- **Improved Safety: Safer, dedicated spaces for cyclists and pedestrians.**
Traffic Calming measures along the approach to Arklow town by way of a narrowed carriageway widths will contribute to an improved commuting experience.
- **Increased Accessibility & Connectivity:**
The facilities along the route provide a modal shift to Sustainable Transport. It also provides improved access to the Industrial Area and the residential estates. This improved accessibility strengthens regional transportation options, local bus routes.
- **Health and Well-being:**
Encouraging active travel supports healthier lifestyles.
- **Integration with Broader Transport Strategy:**
Complements planned initiatives i.e. GDA Cycle Network Plan. This continuity strengthens the scheme's long-term impact on community mobility.
- **Climate Goals:**
The scheme supports the councils Climate Action Plan and contributes to carbon offset.
- **Community Integration and Continued Use:**
Connections to commercial and industrial areas along the R772 by ensuring the cycle track and footpath remains integral to local transport routes, the infrastructure is positioned for regular usage, ensuring its value to the community over time.



Figure 4.6 Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Improvement Scheme

Scheme Focus - Safe Route to School Programme

Wicklow Active Travel team are dedicated to ensuring all children have a safe, easy and fun way to cycle, walk or scoot to school. This helps to improve road safety and overall health. It will also help to achieve our climate goals.

Through the Safe Route to School Programme Wicklow County Council in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and An Taisce have completed works on four schools across the county which include the implementation of five school zones and one permeability link.

We are actively working on four other schools at various stages of the design process.



Figure 4.7 St Johns National School, Arklow



Figure 4.8 St Michaels & Peters National School Arklow

4.5 Climate Adaptation Projects



Figure 4.9 Scheme Cells and The Breach's, Kilcoole

East Coast Railway Infrastructure Protection Project (ECRIPP):

Was established to provide improved coastal protection against predicted climate change effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion on the east coast railway corridor between Merrion Gates (Co. Dublin) and Wicklow Harbour (Co Wicklow). The project is part of the **Project Ireland 2040/National Development Plan (2021–2030)**, funded under Department of Transport via the National Transport Authority budgeted to around **€230 million**. This project has two non-statutory public consultation periods planned. The first public consultation on ECRIPP is on the Emerging Preferred Scheme (EPS) for each of the five Coastal Cell Areas CCA1 to CCA6.2 which took place in 2024;

- CCA1 Merrion to Dún Laoghaire
- CCA2/3 Dalkey Tunnel to Shanganagh Bray Wastewater Treatment Plant
- CCA5 Bray Head to Greystones North Beach
- CCA6.1 Greystones to Newcastle
- CCA6.2 Newcastle to Wicklow Harbour

The project will deliver a minimum of 50 years (2075) protection to the railway line against coastal flooding and erosion hazards at locations where the railway line would be at risk in the next 25 years (2050) if no capital works were undertaken.

Wicklow County Council is part of the ECRIPP working group with DLR CoCo, DCC, The Office of Public Works, Jacobs and Irish Rail. Irish Rail is the project lead for the scheme.

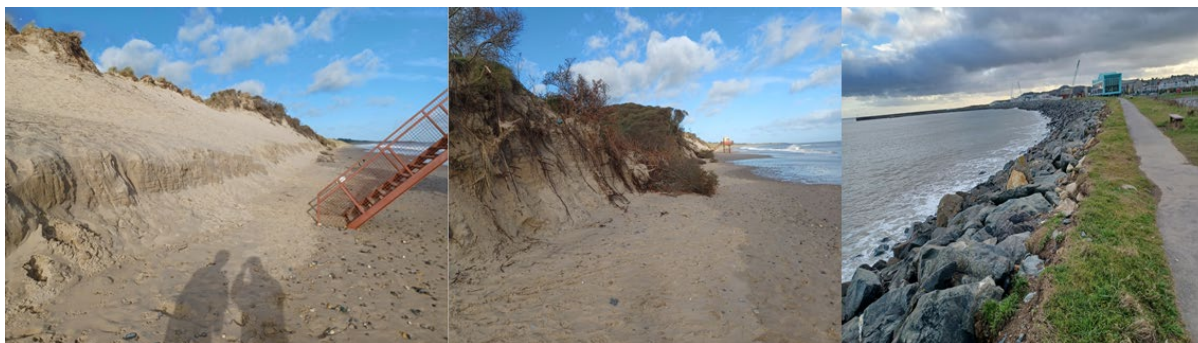


Figure 4.10 Coastal Erosion Brittas Bay and Arklow

Coastal Erosion:

The Office of Public Works has approved funding of €243,000 for Wicklow County Council to conduct two Coastal Erosion Risk Management Studies covering from the start of Brittas Bay to the County Wexford boundary.

Funded under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme, the first study includes Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Beach, where Malachy Walsh and Co. limited have been appointed to complete the study. This will include a 12km stretch of an area designated as a Special Area of conservation and a Proposed Natural Heritage Area.

The second study includes Arklow North Beach, Porters Rock Beach, Arklow South Beach and Clogga Strand Beach, where RPS Ireland Ltd have been appointed. The total length of this study area is over 10km and includes Proposed Natural Heritage Areas and rock revetments.

These studies aim to undertake a detailed coastal erosion risk management investigation to develop an appropriate plan to best manage the risks identified to human health and life (social), the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity and to further assess and investigate the feasibility of the management plan. The study will provide information on erosion patterns and include a condition survey of all coastal protection structures.

Detailed current and future scenario coastal change maps will be ascertained for various timescales, including 2030, 2050 and 2100, where a thorough Risk Assessment will be conducted.

The feasibility of the preferred option(s) and measure(s) shall be investigated and their selection shall be based on a Multi-Criteria Analysis and Economic Assessment. This information will be used for coastal erosion protection measures where necessary.

Climate Adaptation through Sustainable Drainage:

Wicklow County Council has officially adopted its Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Policy and Development Guidance, marking a major advancement in the county's climate adaptation efforts. Developed in alignment with Action 5 NEGI of the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, the adopted policy provides a framework for managing surface water in a more sustainable, nature-based manner. This approach supports the delivery of multifunctional benefits, including flood risk reduction, improved water quality, increased biodiversity, and enhanced public amenity spaces. The document outlines clear planning requirements and design standards, offering practical guidance for developers, planners, and homeowners alike.

By incorporating SuDS into development policy, Wicklow County Council is taking meaningful action on climate resilience. These systems manage rainfall close to where it falls, reduce the volume of runoff, and filter pollutants before they reach rivers and seas—addressing both mitigation and adaptation objectives. The adoption of the SuDS policy actively supports several UN Sustainable Development Goals, including:

- SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation),
- SDG 13 (Climate Action),
- SDG 14 (Life Below Water),
- SDG 15 (Life on Land),
- SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Nature-based SuDS components, such as green roofs and bioretention areas, not only improve environmental conditions but also contribute to the creation of healthier, more liveable urban spaces.

Now in effect, the SuDS Policy will be maintained as a live document, updated regularly in line with national guidance and emerging best practices. The public consultation process, including events held during Climate Action Week, played a vital role in shaping the final version of the policy, ensuring it reflects local needs and expert input. Wicklow County Council remains committed to promoting sustainable development and climate resilience through community engagement, education, and policy leadership.

4.6 Combined Projects

Staff Training:

During 2024, the training officer ran 'Raising Awareness' a global climate change course (LASNTG Code: 7273) for indoor/admin staff. This was completed by 55% of those that we enrolled. All new staff would have been requested to complete this course.

Delivering Action training (LASNTG Code: 7303) for outdoor staff, was rolled out in Autumn 2023 and 171 completed the training. In Autumn 2024 a further 36 number outdoor staff completed the training in 2024.

Climate actions and sustainability forms part of Wicklow County Council's Staff Induction Programme, creating awareness and reflecting its importance to the organisation.

Internal Council Engagement	
Staff Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Reduce your Use" campaign communications delivered to staff by email. Promotion of the campaign via WCC social media platforms. ▪ Food Waste Lunch and Learn ▪ SDG Week Awareness ▪ Climate Action Week Held ▪ The Council ran various training events in 2024 aimed at various elements of the community including Tidy Town Groups, Sports Clubs, Businesses and various community groups. <p>There are 22 Home Energy Savings Kits in Wicklow Libraries. Additionally there are a number of kits available from the Climate Action Team for internal Staff. The Council run an awareness campaign and the kits are loaned regularly</p>
Training	WCC Energy Team undertook a full day Energy MAP training, which aligns to the principles and requirements of ISO 50001 for Energy Management. SEAI delivered the training to the team as part of the Public Sector programme.
Mount Lucas – NZEB Fundamental Awareness Course	Wicklow County Council housing and Energy Team staff attended the NZEB Fundamental Awareness Course hosted in Bray on the Mount Lucas NZEB truck, this was an opportunity to learn about best practices and technologies used for developing energy efficient homes and Near Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) to help make the change to a more sustainable construction industry.
Communication with WCC Sections on CAP	Meetings held with all sections of Wicklow County Council in relation to their Climate Obligations under the Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.

Local Enterprise:

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Wicklow provide support for local enterprises that wish to engage in reducing the carbon footprint of their business. **‘Green for Business’** is a free support on offer through the Local Enterprise Office that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving them access to a green consultant who will make recommendations on how energy efficiency changes can have a big impact on a company operation. The consultant will work with the business owner who will have a sustainability strategy containing steps forward towards reducing energy, electricity and waste in the business.



The **‘Energy Efficiency Grant’** supports all aspects of sustainability project expenditure associated with the operation of an enterprise including water, energy, circular economy, the investment in technologies and equipment of enterprises. It follows on from a ‘Green for Business Report’, a Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit with 75% of eligible costs from a minimum grant of €750 to a maximum of €10,000. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment thereby increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses, to operate in a sustainable manner.

The **Green for Business and Energy Efficiency Grant** are open to small enterprises (with between 1 and 50 paid employees) across business sectors involved in retail, hospitality, local services, food, manufacturing and internationally traded services throughout County Wicklow. In 2024 24 businesses were provided with support through these programmes to a value of €43,000.

Further information is available from the Local Enterprise Office – Wicklow:

[Green for Business - Local Enterprise Office - Wicklow](https://www.localenterprise.ie/energy)

Green Public Procurement (GPP)

The use of GPP within the council is promoted through the Procurement office by various means including, but not limited to, the creation, maintenance, dissemination and promotion of WCC's GPP Internal Guidance Note to Staff and Procurement Policy and Procedures Document. Both documents signpost to a range of resources, toolkits, documentation, legislation etc. relating to GPP and explicitly acknowledge that GPP is not separate to Public Procurement but is integral to it.

Continually promoted are Centralised Procurement Arrangements which have been established by the Office of Government Procurement in accordance with GPP requirements. Also continually promoted are a range of courses/training resources directly or indirectly related to GPP. These include eTenders training which incorporates the GPP Implementation Mandate Requirements when publishing 'Calls for Tender' and the promotion of various training resources provided by the Local Government Operations Procurement Centre (SupplyGov) and the Office of Government Procurement.

4.7 Community Engagement and Activation

Community Climate Action Programme Fund

2024 was the first year that the Community Climate Action Programme Fund (CCAP Fund) was offered to communities in Wicklow and the total allocations to the county from Department of Environment, Climate and Communication (DECC) was €643,000. The funding supports community projects in partnership with local non-profit and voluntary groups, distributed across small, medium, and large-scale initiatives. These projects address five themes: Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping and Recycling, and Local Climate and Environmental Action.

During the funding call 40 applications were received from all over the county. After an assessment process, the Council allocated the €675,574.33 in the form of grant assistance to 20 community projects under the terms of the CCAP Fund.

Project Scale	Wicklow	Baltinglass	Greystones	Bray	Arklow
Large	2	1	1	0	1
Medium	3	2	1	1	2
Small	1	3	1	0	1

The Community Climate Action Officer is working with the successful community groups on their projects that each have a focus on climate action.

Engagement also continues with groups who did not get approval for funding. This will help to ensure groups are ready for call two of funding which is due to happen in the coming months. It is expected that DECC, will make a second funding call in 2025 to enable a new grant application process. The following table highlights the successful projects in 2024.



 WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL Community Climate Action Programme €675,574.33 		
Small Projects		
Ballinacor Comm Park	Community Building/Park Project: supply and install of PV Panels, LED Lighting (replacement and testing), Mini-digger hire, garden materials, rainwater harvester	€ 19,000.00
Baltinglass TT	Solar/Compost/Water Harvesting Project: Solar panels and battery installation, Community composter, Solar powered water butt, 2no. Water Butts at parish community centre	€ 15,000.00
Blessington TT	Planting project: Rowan trees, Stakes, Tree Ties, Apple Trees, Compost and Soil conditioner	€ 4,000.00
Wicklow TT	Water Refill Station Project: 2 refill stations and associated costs	€ 16,189.00
Rathnew Community	Solar PV & EV Project: Solar PV System and 1no. EV Charger	€ 16,223.00
Kildbride GAA	Cycling /Water Refill & 2 Go Cup Project: Bike rack and shelter; bike repair stand; water refill station; 2-Go reusable cups	€ 13,704.00
Kilcoole Mens Shed	Water Harvesting/Orchard/Pollinator Project: Dispersed Orchard and A number of water Butts.	€ 10,320.00
Roundwood Men's Shed	Native Tree Trail Protection Project: Chicken wire, wooden posts, mulch and compost.	€4,820.00
Medium Projects		
Kiltegan GAA	Development Plan Project: Solar PV on club house, Water Refill Station x 1no., Outdoor Recycling Station, Indoor Recycling Station, Boot/Gear Swap Trolley, Reusable Cups, Bike Rack	€ 35,229.09
Arklow TT	Polytunnel; rainwater harvesting system; weed scrubber; install solar powered LED lighting to dog park	€ 34,536.14
Newcastle Biodiversity	Community Bicycle Stands & Dispersed Orchard Project: Wall Mounted Water Station, Bicycle Stands, 100no. Heritage Apple Trees, 100no. Tree Stakes & Tree Ties	€ 21,310.16
Arklow United FC	Climate Action Project: Water Bottle Refill Station, Down pipe Rainwater Butts x 5no., 15Kw Solar PV System, LED Lighting, Water Saving Taps/Smart Urinal/Cistern Bags	€ 35,035.69
Rewild Wicklow	Native Tree Nursery Project: Water irrigation system, used storage container, commercial standard polytunnel, solar power panels and battery, label printer, organic compost, seed compost, horse manure, enriched topsoil, propagation equipment, timber, welded mesh wire and staples.	€ 30,000.00
Coolkenno Sports	Low Carbon Community Project: Solar PV Panels on new build community gym, Bike Rack, Swap Shop for used sports equipment, Pollinator Project.	€ 27,261.42
Signal Arts Centre	Insulation Project: Attic roof rigid insulation, first floor rigid insulation, attic room gable wall warm board insulation, plasterboard, inspection and report on damp proofing	€ 29,554.83
Large Projects		
Donard Community	Donard Community Hall Project: Electric Bikes (2no.), Bike Storage, Compost Tumbler, Wall Insulation, Roof Insulation/Plywood Over Cladding, Solar PV & EV Charger.	€ 72,952.00
Wicklow Town Team SEC	De La Salle Pastoral Center Project with Solar PV, Heating Controls, rainwater garden; Attic Insulation, Wall Insulation, Community Chiller and Bike Rack;	€ 74,913.00
Carnew Community Care SEC	Day Care Centre Project: Solar PV System, Heat Pump Water Heater, Insulation Works, EV Charger, Gardening, Sewing Circle.	€ 54,591.00
East Wicklow Rivers Trust	Upland Gully Woodland Planting Project: Project Forester, Project Ecologist, Planting Team, Volunteer Supervision & Training, Certified Native Trees -Tree Cage, Deer Fence, Equipment for Volunteers, Travel & Transport to remote site	€ 88,821.00
Eirop GAA	Sustainability Programme Project: Clubhouse/Dressing Room Lights & Motion Sensor, LED Upgrade Car Park Floodlights, LED Upgrade Training Pitch Floodlights, Pipe Insulation Domestic Hot Water, Internal recycling Bins x 2no., Crookery Cups, Hot Water Dispenser, Water Bottle Refilling Station, Bike Racks	€ 72,114.00

Table 4.11 Community Climate Action Programme



Figure 4.12 Climate Action Week

Climate Action Week:

Wicklow County Council recently held a highly successful Climate Action Week from October 14th to 20th, featuring over 38 events across the county. These activities were closely linked to the 135 actions outlined in the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, underlining the Council’s strong commitment to tackling climate change through community engagement and practical solutions.

The week provided an important platform for residents, community groups, and experts to connect, share knowledge, and take meaningful climate action. Events covered a wide range of themes, including carbon footprint reduction, renewable energy, biodiversity enhancement, sustainable agriculture, circular economy, and active travel.

Highlights included:

- ECO UNESCO Fast Fashion workshops in Greystones, Blessington, and Arklow Libraries, educating participants on the environmental impact of clothing consumption and promoting sustainable choices.
- The Mount Lucas Energy Truck on Bray Promenade, demonstrating retrofit technologies such as insulation, heat pumps, solar panels, and providing information on energy grants.
- Evening events at Clermont House presenting on topics like offshore wind energy, dark skies, e-mobility, oyster restoration, and Wicklow’s Nature-Based Sustainable Drainage Systems Policy. A special session featured environmental journalist Philip Boucher-Hayes discussing the risks of inaction on climate change.
- Gardening for Biodiversity and Climate Change courses held in Greystones and Blessington Libraries, offering practical advice to support local ecosystems.
- The launch of the Arklow Climate Action Forum, a new community initiative to support local climate efforts.

- Greenhouse Culture's Climate Culture Café and Creative Workshop in Wicklow Library, combining creativity with climate awareness.
- An online agricultural workshop co-hosted with the IFA, Teagasc, and Tirlán, aimed at helping farmers adopt more sustainable and cost-effective practices.

Climate Action Week highlighted the power of collaboration in driving progress on climate goals. Wicklow County Council remains dedicated to implementing the Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 and deepening community involvement to build a greener, more resilient county.



Figure 4.13 Greystones Climate Action Forum

Sustainable Development Goal Week

Wicklow County Council proudly hosted Ireland's third annual Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week from 20 to 29 September 2024. The week celebrated global ambitions such as ending poverty, promoting decent work, ensuring sustainable consumption, protecting nature, advancing health and wellbeing, universal education, gender equality, climate action, and fostering peaceful societies.

The inclusive event welcomed participation from individuals, schools, businesses, and institutions, coinciding with the wider European Sustainable Development Week (18 September – 8 October 2024). A diverse array of over 48 activities, projects, and workshops were held across the county, supported by Wicklow Libraries and the Climate Action Team.

Highlights included a Gardening Course on Biodiversity and Climate Change at Arklow Library, an Autumn Scything Workshop at Wild Acres Nature Reserve, Bike Repair Workshops in Arklow and Blessington, and an Autumn Bird Migration Workshop at North Beach, Brittas Bay. Children engaged in a Biodiversity Workshop creating bug hotels, while adults enjoyed mindfulness sessions, sustainable sewing, and a guided art and environment walking tour in Wicklow town.

The week also featured the inaugural Climate Action Forum in Greystones Village Green, the Reading Goals Ambassador Ceremony, Big Beach Clean events at The Murrough and Greystones, and an Irish Bees for Beginners session at Wicklow Library.



Figure 4.14 East Glendalough Youth Conference

‘Our Climate Our Future’ – Wicklow Youth Climate Conference

Over 400 secondary school students from eight schools in Greystones, Kilcoole, and Wicklow attended the second Wicklow Youth Climate Conference, held at East Glendalough School on November 26th. Organised by sixteen transition year students with support from Codling Wind Park and Wicklow County Council, the event aimed to empower youth voices on climate action.

Les Cathaoirleach, Cllr Melanie Corrigan, officially opened the conference, praising the school and partners for their efforts. She highlighted the inspiring collaboration of local schools and expressed hope that the event would spark lasting positive change.

The conference featured presentations on renewable energy, offshore wind, fast fashion, and climate action in local government. Speakers included David Lawlor from Green Ocean Coffee on oyster restoration, Youth Sustainability Ambassador Victory Luke on youth empowerment, and Irish Freediving Champion Nina McGowan addressing climate anxiety and wellbeing.

A careers panel showcased climate-related job opportunities in government and renewable energy sectors, especially offshore wind. The conference emphasized climate literacy, now embedded in Ireland’s curriculum, and encouraged students to become lifelong advocates.

A majority (81%) of students identified improving public transport as the top priority for a cleaner environment, followed by renewable energy investment and better recycling. Confidence in reversing severe climate impacts varied: 16% felt strongly confident, 52% unsure, and 32% unconfident.



Figure 4.15 Biodiversity Working Group

Wicklows Biodiversity Working Group:

Wicklow County Council has launched the Biodiversity Working Group (BWG), a key step in developing the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The launch event took place on October 8th at the historic Clermont House and marks an important milestone in protecting and enhancing the county's rich natural heritage.

The BWG's role is to guide the creation of the BAP by working collaboratively with the public and key stakeholders to ensure the plan effectively conserves and restores Wicklow's diverse ecosystems. This group will be central to shaping policies and actions that safeguard the stunning landscapes, vibrant wildlife, and natural environments that define the county.

This initiative reflects the council's commitment to a sustainable future, recognizing that biodiversity protection is essential not only for the environment but also for the well-being of the community. The Biodiversity Action Plan is designed to address local challenges and opportunities, creating a clear path forward to preserve natural assets for future generations.

Launched during Climate Action Week (14th to 20th October), the BWG initiative encourages residents to engage with the county's biodiversity, explore its natural spaces, and reflect on the role everyone plays in protecting the environment. This development demonstrates Wicklow County Council's integrated approach to climate action, emphasizing biodiversity conservation as a crucial element of building a resilient and sustainable community.



Figure 4.16 Tidy Towns Education Event

Wicklow Tidy Towns Education Event:

Wicklow County Council hosted a successful Tidy Towns Education Event on 25th September at Greystones Golf Club, reinforcing community engagement in climate action and sustainability. The event featured presentations from national and local experts, including adjudicators from the National Tidy Towns competition and representatives from Wicklow's Public Participation Network, Wicklow Partnership, and the Council's Climate Action team.

Held during Ireland's third Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week, the event aligned with global ambitions such as climate action, biodiversity protection, sustainable communities, and social inclusion. SDG Week encourages participation from individuals, community groups, schools, businesses, and institutions, emphasizing collective responsibility toward sustainable development.

Tidy Towns groups from across the county—including Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Arklow, Blessington, Hollywood, Enniskerry, Stratford on Slaney, Laragh & Glendalough, Donard, Grange Con, Delgany, and Rathdrum—were well represented. A key outcome was the launch of the County Wicklow Tidy Towns Forum, created to enhance communication and collaboration among groups and with partners such as the Public Participation Network and Wicklow Partnership.

With over 35 active groups, Tidy Towns plays a vital role in maintaining local environments, promoting biodiversity, and supporting sustainability efforts. Wicklow County Council continues to support these voluntary groups through annual awards and strengthened partnerships across municipal districts and climate action initiatives.

The newly established Forum will facilitate greater cooperation and shared learning, helping Tidy Towns groups to respond effectively to evolving environmental challenges and contribute meaningfully to the county's climate action goals.

5.0 CARO Reporting:

5.1 Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) were established in 2018 in response to the 2018 National Adaptation Framework (NAF) – Planning a Climate Resilient Ireland. The offices are mandated to coordinate engagement across the varying levels of government and help build on experience and expertise that exists in the area of climate change. The offices have a role in driving climate action at both regional and local levels, including supporting the implementation of local Climate Change Action Plans.

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. The 4 CARO regions, constituent local authorities and associated lead authorities are shown in Table 5.1



Figure 5.1 – CAROs

Climate Action Region	Local Authority Function Area	Lead Authority
Dublin Metropolitan	Dublin City, DunLaoghaire-Rathdown, South Dublin, Fingal	Dublin City Council
Eastern and Midlands	Carlow, Cavan, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow	Kildare County Council with support from Kilkenny County Council
Atlantic Seaboard North	Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Galway City & County	Mayo County Council
Atlantic Seaboard South	Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork City & County.	Cork County Council

Table 5.1 – Climate Action Regional Offices

The Eastern & Midlands CARO focuses on Central, Eastern and Midland counties. The office is funded by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment and is hosted by Kildare County Council as the lead authority within the Region. Kildare County Council, as host of the Eastern & Midlands CARO, is supported by Kilkenny County Council as a partner local authority.

Additionally the Eastern & Midlands CARO will have a particular focus on fluvial, rural pluvial and groundwater flooding and develop knowledge hubs for these primary climate risks.

5.2 Climate Action National Key Performance Indicators

In 2020, at the request of the City and County Management Association (CCMA) Climate Action, Transport and Networks (CATN) Committee, the Climate Action KPI working group convened to track, measure and report on progress in delivering effective climate action at both local authority and sectoral levels. KPIs have evolved in number since 2021 commensurate with strengthening climate policy and broadly reflect the key areas of work contained in the Charter, the local government strategy on climate action – Delivering Effective Climate Action (DECA) 2030 and the National Climate Action Plan.

To date the working group has published two annual Climate Action KPI reports, with the most recent being published in August 2024. The report contains information relating to progress in 2023 across key actions to mitigate against and adapt to climate change, to affect behavioural change amongst stakeholders and to monitor whether the required infrastructure is in place to deliver on the sector's commitments to addressing climate change. The collected and published data identifies how local authorities are performing in terms of their climate action obligations.

The data is collected under the following themes: mainstreaming, mitigation, adaptation and internal behavioural change and capacity building and is collated into the annual Climate Action Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) report by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). Please refer to the dedicated website for more details:

[2023 Local Government Climate Action Key Performance Indicators Report](#)

Local Government CA KPI Theme		Climate Action Theme	Data supplied by
1.	Climate Action Staff	Mainstreaming	Local Authorities
2.	Climate Action Teams	Mainstreaming	Local Authorities
3.	Severe Weather Responses	Adaptation	Local Authorities
4.	Climate Action Plans	Combined (adaptation / mitigation)	Local Authorities
5.	Active Travel Projects	Mitigation	NTA
6.	Community Climate Action Programme	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	DECC
7.	Councillor and Staff Training	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	LASNTG
8.	Green for Micro	Internal Behavioural Change and Capacity Building	Enterprise Ireland
9.	Social Housing Retrofit	Mitigation	LGMA (HDCO)
10.	Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Mitigation	SEAI

Table 5.2 – Ten National KPIs for Climate Action

Data for 2024 was collected over the period January 15th – January 31st 2025 and will be published in summer 2025 by the LGMA. Number 4 above – Climate Action Plans has been included for 2024 and will collect data on the delivery of climate action plans from every local authority.

The 2024 Climate Action KPI data collection gathers data directly from local authorities in relation to four of the ten indicators:

Collected via the Data Collection Survey:

1. Climate Action Staff
2. Climate Action Teams
3. Severe Weather Emergency Responses

Collected via LA CAP Actions Spreadsheet:

4. Climate Action Plans

5.3 Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan CARO Return

A return was made under item four Climate Action Plans in relation to the status of the Actions on the 31st December 2024 under the following themes as shown on the below table:

	Mitigation	Adaptation	Combined
Not Started			
In Progress			
Completed – Once off			
Completed – Recurring			
Total			

Wicklow County Council will supply this data via a spreadsheet with pre-populated headings on an annual basis to both CARO and the LGMA. The return includes the actions completed during the calendar year of 2024. A number of the completed actions may include annual returns, and therefore will appear as complete over more than one year during the lifetime of the climate action plans (recurring).

Wicklow County Councils Return for the County Actions can be found within appendix A.

6.0 Arklow Decarbonisation Zone Actions

6.1 Introduction

Under the [National Climate Action Plan](#) each local authority was to develop a pilot decarbonisation zone and incorporate it as a chapter of the Climate Action Plan. The aim is to provide a demonstration area where the scale and scope of decarbonisation can be tested working closely with local stakeholders in the community, local businesses and householders. The town of Arklow has been selected as the ‘Decarbonisation Zone’ for County Wicklow. Arklow is poised for regeneration and improvement, with three major infrastructure projects underway or planned in the immediate future. These are the development of a Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme and the development of the Arklow Bank Wind Park adjacent to the pilot zone. The impetus from these projects can be captured to create momentum for decarbonisation.

The Climate Action Plan contains 23 actions across 5 thematic areas that are specifically focused for the delivery of climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures for the town of Arklow.

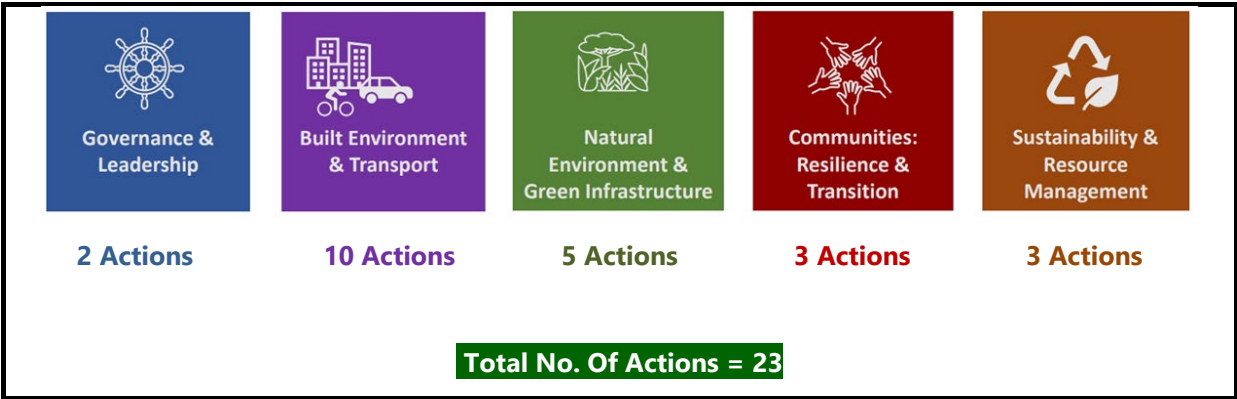


Figure 6.1 DZ Action Breakdown Across Themes

The implementation timeframes of these DZ actions are as follows:


	 Governance & Leadership	 Built Environment & Transport	 Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	 Communities: Resilience & Transition	 Sustainability & Resource Management
Actions Commenced in 2024	2	9	5	3	3
Actions Completed	0	0	0	0	0
Actions Completed and ongoing	1	3	3	1	1
Total Number of Actions in Progress	1	6	2	2	2
Actions to be commenced after 2024	0	1	0	0	0
Total Number of Actions	2	10	5	3	3

Table 6.1 Implementation Status of DZ Actions

It was found that for the period 2024, that 96% (22) of the actions had commenced, with 57% (13) were classified as 'In progress' (with delivery timelines that extend to a period greater than a 12-month period) and it was found that only 4% (1) action had yet to commence. Out of the 23 actions in the Arklow DZ, 39% (9) of these are actions that are partially completed that recur annually.

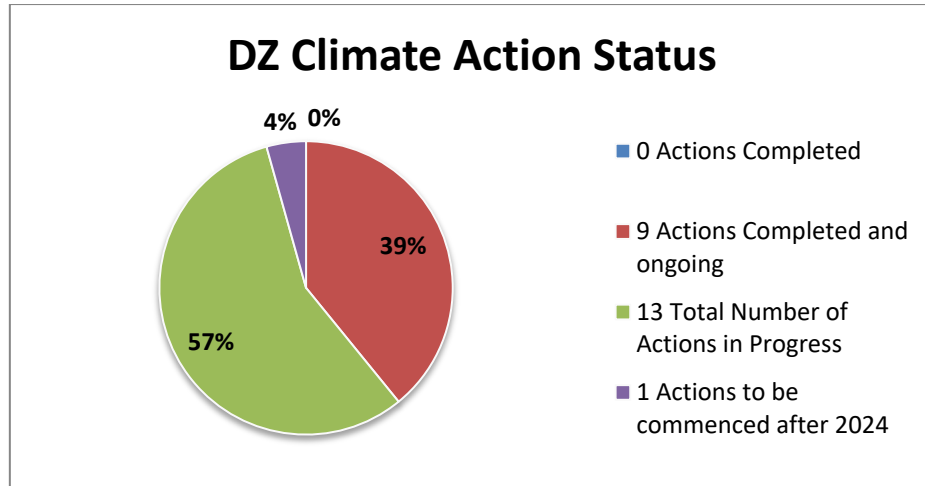


Figure 6.2 DZ Action Status

Climate Change Type for Arklow DZ

The CAP actions are classified by whether they relate to mitigation or adaptation to climate change or combined - actions that achieved both outcomes. It was found that 61% (14) relate to mitigation, 39% (9) relate to combined adaptation and mitigation.

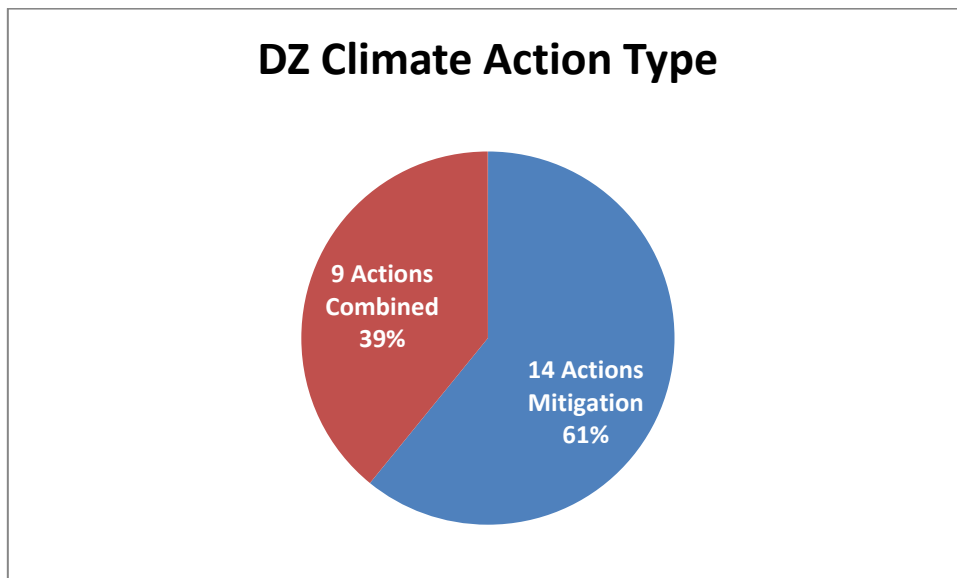


Figure 6.3 DZ Action Type

6.2 Arklow DZ Climate Action Plan CARO Return

A return was made in relation to the status of the 23 Actions on the 31st December 2024 under the following themes as shown on the below table:

	Mitigation	Adaptation	Combined
Not Started			
In Progress			
Completed – Once off			
Completed – Recurring			
Total			

Wicklow County Council will supply this data on an annual basis to both CARO and the LGMA. The return includes the actions status during the calendar year of 2024. A number of the completed actions may include annual returns, and therefore will appear as complete over more than one year during the lifetime of the climate action plan (recurring).

Wicklow County Councils Return for the Arklow DZ Actions can be found within appendix B.

6.3 Arklow Decarbonising Zone Mitigation Actions

District Heating

Ireland's Climate Action Plan has a target of 2.7TWh of district heating by 2030 and introduces a mandate on the public sector to connect to district heating. A modern District Heating solution will avail of a low-carbon renewable heat source. District heating is a network of insulated pipes which allows heat generated from either a single or several larger centralised sources to be delivered to multiple buildings to provide heat. Heat can be provided from various sources such as heat pumps and waste heat sources such as data centres. Potential heat sources in Arklow include the Echelon Data Centres, Arklow Waste Water Treatment Plant and Avoca River. Significant Energy users include the leisure centres, Bridgewater Centre, zoned development lands and public buildings such as schools, courthouse, credit union etc. Initial mapping suggests that relevant heat sources and clusters of existing or new heat users can be identified in the town. Figure 6.4 below represents an initial appraisal focussing on demand from commercial and industrial zones and proposed new development (or redevelopment sites).

Codema Dublin's Energy Agency has commenced the Arklow District Heating Feasibility Study. This Study will enable closer examination of the potential low-carbon heat sources and potential anchor

customers for heat demand in the town. Such a study will drill down further into the existing energy demand for individual business, as well as likely further energy demand for future regeneration and greenfield development zones. As well as technical analysis it will also address investment and operational costs, and the operational (business) model that would suit Arklow. The experience Codema gained of the Tallaght District Heating scheme will be beneficial.

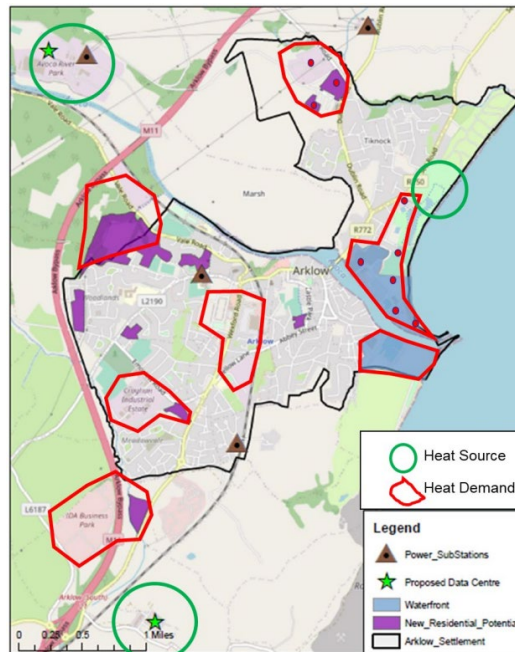


Figure 6.4 Indicative clusters of heat sources and demand locations.

Upgrade of Council Buildings in Arklow:

The Arklow Municipal District, Depot and Recycling centre had Solar PPV installed in 2024.

A proposal was submitted for energy upgrades through the Sports Capital Grant for the Coral Sports Centre which was unsuccessful.

Arklow SEC Building Fabric Upgrade:

Arklow Sustainable Energy Community launched an initiative called the Insulation Meitheal, inviting members of the public to express interest in joining a shared service model for home energy upgrades. The Meitheal — an Irish term for a community working together — offers homeowners access to competitive pricing, expert advice, and collective support for upgrading their homes. The focus of this initiative was on improving attic and cavity wall insulation in residential properties, with the goal of increasing energy efficiency and promoting sustainable living.

Upgrading the building fabric of your home, particularly through improved insulation, is one of the most effective ways to enhance comfort while reducing energy bills and environmental impact. For homeowners, better insulation means less heat loss in winter and less overheating in summer, leading to consistent indoor temperatures and lower reliance on heating or cooling systems. This not only

results in significant cost savings over time but also contributes to reducing your home's carbon footprint. Participating in initiatives like the Insulation Meitheal empowers homeowners to make these upgrades more affordably and with confidence, thanks to shared community knowledge and resources.

Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) Meitheals allows the homeowners to utilise Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Grants to improve their homes. The SEAI have three energy upgrades options:

- **National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme:**
This is where a one stop shop completes multiply upgrades on a dwelling to achieve a minimum BER B2 standard. The property must be built and occupied before 2011 and has not received grants for the same measures.
- **Better Energy Homes and Solar PV**
This is the scheme typically utilised by an SEC Meitheal for dwellings built and occupied before 2011 for insulation and heating controls and 2021 for heat pumps and renewable systems.
- **Warmer Homes Scheme**

6.4 Arklow Decarbonising Zone Combined Actions



Figure 6.5 Arklow Climate Action Forum

Arklow Climate Action Forum:

During Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Week 2024, the Arklow Climate Action Forum was held at the Arklow Bay Hotel where it brought together local stakeholders, volunteers, businesses, and environmental experts to highlight ongoing and future climate initiatives in the area. The event began with an opening address by Cathaoirleach Cllr Pat Kennedy, followed by a series of short presentations under the theme "Arklow in Action." These sessions showcased real, grassroots examples of local climate resilience from council-led policies, biodiversity protection efforts, and coastal erosion management to sustainable energy projects and transport innovation. Speakers included representatives from Arklow Tidy Towns, Arklow United FC, Arklow Sustainable Energy Community, and companies like Servier and Moby, emphasizing how different sectors are responding to climate challenges in their own domains.

Community participation was central to the forum, particularly during the "Future Actions" workshop session. Attendees joined roundtable discussions focused on five key themes: sustainable energy, biodiversity, water, business and transport, and a catch-all category for miscellaneous local actions. Each table was led by a facilitator, encouraging residents and stakeholders to share insights, brainstorm local solutions, and propose community-based climate strategies. By blending expert knowledge with open community dialogue, the forum effectively fostered a shared sense of responsibility and inspired continued collective action on climate change.

Native Oyster Restoration Project Development:

The council partnered with the Native Oyster Reef Restoration Ireland (NORRI) and Oyster Heaven on submitting an application under the EU Life Application for a Life Oyster Restore project. This project is currently on a waiting list. Native Oyster Reef Restoration Ireland (NORRI) are currently progressing a licence application and will need to undertake a feasibility assessment.

The council will continue to support Oyster restoration as opportunities arise. The restoration of Oyster habitats will improve water quality and help marine vegetation like kelp and seagrasses to grow. This in turn will aid coastal protection and increase carbon sequestration in the coastal area off Arklow. It can also provide a strong connection to the unique maritime heritage of Arklow. As water quality in Arklow improves following completion of the new wastewater treatment plant, the regeneration of natural coastal ecosystems – and potentially the native oyster - can be a strong symbol for the town in the future.

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme:

The Office of the Public Works is funding Wicklow County Council to undertake engineering works along the Avoca River to mitigate the risk of flooding in Arklow. The proposed €60m scheme will involve the construction of flood defence walls and an embankment, as well as conveyance improvements in the Avoca River; including deepening of the river channel, the introduction of new debris and gravel traps and improvement works to Arklow Bridge.



Ayesa are the lead consultant to develop and implement the scheme which is designed to protect 637 residential and 141 commercial properties. The scheme is currently in design stage, based on our current programme of works a main contractor will be appointed by the end of 2025 with works commencing in Q1 2026. The works are programmed for a period of 4 years with a completion date of Q4 2029.

Project Website - <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/arklow/home/>

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Municipal-Districts/Arklow/FRS>

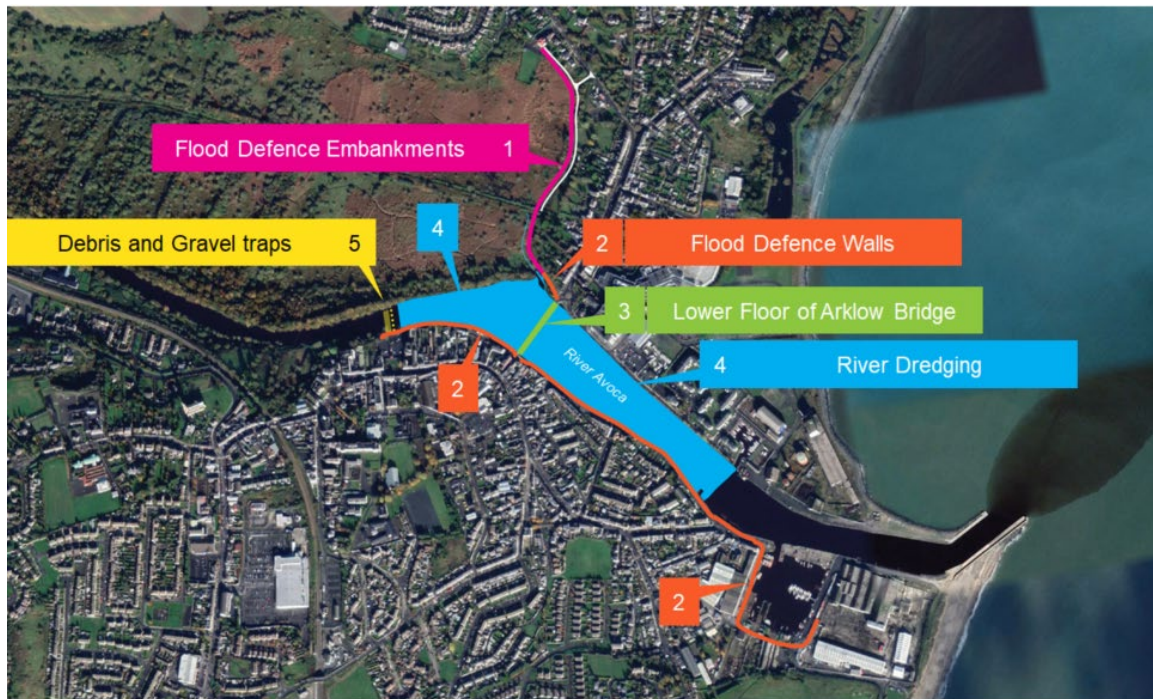


Figure 6.6 Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

No.	Action	Lead Department	Timeframe	Progress Report 2024	Status
Theme 1: Governance & Leadership (G&L)					
1 ADZ G&L	The Local Area Plan will take account the Arklow Decarbonising Zone implementation plan and actions of the Climate Action Plan.	Planning	2029	Local Area Plan Currently Under Review.	In Progress
2 ADZ G&L	Create an Arklow Decarbonisation Forum to engage key stakeholders in development and delivery of decarbonisation.	Environment (Climate Action) and Arklow Municipal District	2024 - 2029	An Arklow Climate Action Forum was established during Climate Action Week 2024. This will be reviewed in 2025.	Completed and Ongoing

Theme 2: Built Environment & Transport (BE&T)					
3 ADZ BE& T	<p>Complete a Local Transport Study taking the following into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the '10 Minute Town' concept • active travel • permeability • public transport requirements • shared services • mobility hub • active travel bridges <p>Ensure any required development is planned in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage.</p>	TWES (Active Travel Team)	2026	The planning Department and Active Travel Team are currently drafting a Local Transport Study for Arklow.	In Progress
4 ADZ BE& T	Investigate opportunities for a shared travel scheme.	TWES; Climate Action Team	2024-2029	An E-bike scheme expression of interest was issued for Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow. Wicklow County Council was in discussions with the preferred interested party in 2024.	In Progress
5 ADZ BE& T	<p>Implement the Retrofitting Housing Programme for existing housing stock achieving a BER of B2 or cost optimal level equivalent.</p> <p>Provide newly constructed housing units to an A2 BER rating or in compliance with relevant guidelines within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity. Create awareness of works undertaken and their benefits to encourage retrofitting in private housing stock.</p>	Housing	2024-2029	No houses were retrofitted in Arklow Town during 2024.	In Progress

6 ADZ BE& T	Undertake a retrofit of the Coral Leisure Centre pool and sports hall investigating the feasibility for renewable water heating, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity.	Mid-East Energy Unit	2026-2029	Sports Hall grant retrofit Grant applied for in 2024.	In Progress
7 ADZ BE& T	Undertake a retrofit of the civic amenity site and install solar PV panels under the small scale generation scheme, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites, biodiversity, the need to control and mitigate potential glint and glare impacts.	Mid-East Energy Unit	2025-2029	The civic amenity site and depot was funded to have solar PV panels fitted by the Climate Action Team in 2024. The Harbour Office was deemed not suitable for Solar PV. Arklow MD / Library (Removal of gas boiler, ASHP, PV solar panels planned for 2025)	Completed and Ongoing
8 ADZ BE& T	Investigate district heating opportunities from the planned data centre; ensuring appropriate regard is had to planning and environmental protection considerations.	Environment (Climate Action)	2024-2029	Codema were appointed with funding to complete an Arklow District Heating Feasibility Study in December 2024. The Study is programmed to be completed in Q1 2026.	In Progress
9 ADZ BE& T	Within the Arklow Municipal District increase the number of EVs and convert the existing fleet to a low carbon fuel source, 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 and ensuring any ancillary development have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity.	Arklow Municipal District	2024-2029	An EV was very successfully piloted by Arklow MD in 2024 for 8 weeks.	In Progress

10 ADZ BE& T	Support the work of Arklow SEC to engage owners of buildings in retrofitting projects.	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	A Fabric Meital was launched in Arklow. A third phase of the Arklow Sustainable Energy Community Insulation Meiteal which aims to promote uptake of attic and cavity Wall insulation has been launched in 2024.	Completed and Ongoing
11 ADZ BE& T	Develop a pilot to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures, 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 that may be present in such buildings and European sites.	Environment (Energy Officer)	2024-2029	A location has to be selected for this initiative.	Not Started
12 ADZ BE& T	Increase the number of schools involved in Safer Routes to Schools, ensuring any ancillary development have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.	TWES; Active Travel	2024-2029	Completed SRTS works at 2 schools: 1. St Michael and Peter Junior School, Arklow - Improvements to front of school and access routes 2. St. John's Senior National School, Arklow - Improvements to front of school and access routes	Completed and Ongoing

Theme 3: Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure (NE&GI)					
13 ADZ NE& GI	Implement the Wicklow Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) Policy, Tree Management Policy and Landscaping Development Guidelines to promote biodiversity gain.	Planning; Arklow Municipal District	2024-2029	The Wicklow SuDS Policy should be adopted in 2025. The Tree Management Policy is to be reviewed in 2025. The Landscaping Development Guidelines will commence a draft in 2025.	Completed and Ongoing
14 ADZ NE& GI	Conduct a tree survey in the public realm.	Arklow Municipal District	2026	Arklow MD has conducted a number of Tree surveys in the public realm todate.	Completed and Ongoing
15 ADZ NE& GI	Map and identify green infrastructure opportunities in the town to support the development of NB-SuDS improving climate resilience, while ensuring projects have due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.	Arklow Municipal District	2024-2029	Green Infrastructure to be mapped within Local Area Plan.	In Progress
16 ADZ NE& GI	Promote rainwater harvesting, green roofs, green walls and water demand reducing projects, while ensuring projects have appropriate regard to local environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity European sites and cultural heritage considerations.	Environment	2024-2029	Done through Development Control for new developments. Rain Gardens, Raised Beds or rainwater harvesting featured in the Community Climate Action Funded Projects	Completed and Ongoing
17 ADZ NE& GI	Undertake a pilot with the Native Oyster Reef Restoration Ireland project to test the re-establishment of oyster beds and kelp restoration on a demonstration scale.	Environment (Climate Action)	2025-2029	Under the EU Life Application Partners; the council in Partnership with NORRI and Oyster Heaven submitted an application. The application is currently on a waiting list.	In Progress

Theme 4: Communities Resilience & Transition (CR&T)					
18 ADZ CR&T	Develop annual communication plans with targeted campaigns to engage the community in climate action.	Environment (EAO)	2025-2029	The Climate Action Team will run more targeted plans in 2025.	In Progress
19 ADZ CR&T	Engage with community groups to identify projects that can be funded under the Community Climate Action Fund.	Environment (Community Climate Action Officer)	2024-2029	<p>The Climate Action held a number of information workshops in Arklow and the following groups received funding within the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arklow tidy Towns received funding of €34,536.14 to install Polyunnel; rainwater harvesting system; weed scrubber; install solar powered LED lighting to dog park. • Arklow United FC received funding of €35,035.69 for a Water Bottle Refill Station, Down pipe Rainwater Butts x 5no., 15Kw Solar PV System, LED Lighting, Water Saving Taps/Smart Urinal/Cistern Bags. 	Completed and Ongoing
20 ADZ CR&T	Promote greater uptake of solar PV in the town through promoting the micro-generation and the small scale generation scheme, where it is confirmed through a glint and glare assessment that any solar development will not have any potential glint and glare impact on sensitive receptors, or otherwise, where it is confirmed that any solar development constitutes exempted development under the Planning and Development Regulations by virtue of its size or location outside a Solar Safeguarding Zone.	Environment (Climate Action)	2024-2029	To be reviewed by Arklow Forum, Climate Action Team and Arklow SEC. Coral Dry Building, Civic Amenity Centre and Arklow MD. The Climate Action Team will seek to fund all Council Buildings to have Solar PV in Arklow.	In Progress

Theme 5: Sustainability & Resource Management (S&RM)					
21 ADZ S&RM	Promote development of the circular economy including waste minimisation, repair, reuse, upcycling and sharing through the Arklow amenity site and the Arklow Library, highlighting the role of social enterprises locally, ensuring supported development and activities accord with the Waste Management Act, as necessary, and do not cause negative environmental effects or nuisance.	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	The EAO to run a number of educational events at the Arklow Amenity Site and in the library in 2025.	Completed and Ongoing
22 ADZ S&RM	Investigate opportunity for carbon storage or hydrogen production from renewable electricity generated, having appropriate regard to planning and environmental constraints and considerations, having appropriate regard to planning and environmental constraints and considerations.	Environment (Energy Officer, Climate Action)	2024-2029	Echelon are seeking Carbon Storage and Hydrogen generation with storage. Extraction licence from river, natural water source. SSE renewable energy provider. Gas networks Ireland application submitted by Echelon for connection point.	In Progress
23 ADZ S&RM	Investigate opportunity to develop a micro/small scale pilot anaerobic digestion in Arklow, identifying potential feed stock whilst ensuring: 1. Appropriate regard is given to planning and environmental protection constraints and considerations during any future the development planning process; 2. Such potential development does not cause unintended, significant, negative environmental effects in the area; and, 3. Such a potential facility operates in accordance with the provisions of the Waste Management Act.	Environment (Energy Officer, Climate Action)	2024-2029	Nephin Renewables preplanning info lodged and response received. Nephin Renewables presented during the 2024 Climate Action Week. The council are a member of the Bioeconomy Forum.	In Progress

7 Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 Action Update for 2024

7.1 Theme 1: Governance & Leadership (GL) – 14 Actions

No.	Action	Lead Department	Timeframe	Progress Report 2024	Status
1 GL	Place Climate Action as a standing item on the agenda for Senior Management Team meetings with an annual Climate Action Summary Report produced.	Management Team	2024 - 2029	Climate Action is a standing item on the agenda for Senior Management Team meetings. This is the first annual review report of the Climate Action Plan.	Completed and Ongoing
2 GL	Maintain a Climate and Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to ensure development of policy. All other SPCs to ensure climate resilience are incorporated into policy development. Place Climate Action Policy as a Standing Item on Corporate Policy Group meetings.	Management Team	2024 - 2029	Climate and Biodiversity has been maintained within the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee. All SPCs are ensuring that climate resilience are incorporated into policy development	Completed
3 GL	Establish a Climate Action Committee with representation at Senior Executive level (Grade 8's or equivalent) from each service to manage deliver and budgeting of Climate Action Plan including green procurement where relevant.	Management Team	2024	Committee established. First Meeting held 13th November 2024. Terms of Reference Agreed.	Completed

4 GL	Provide training and policy guidance for staff and elected representatives on Climate Action ensuring that all are aware of policy and its implications for delivery of services across the organisation. Include guidance for induction of new staff.	ECS (Training Officer)	2024 - 2029	Raising Awareness of global climate change course (LASNTG Code: 7273) for indoor/admin staff. This was completed by 55% of those that we enrolled. All new staff would have been requested to complete this course. Delivering Action (LASNTG Code: 7303) which was for outdoor staff. This was rolled out in Autumn 2023 and 171 completed the training. In Autumn 2024 we tried to catch those that had missed the 2023 training. A total of 36 outdoor staff completed the training in 2024.	Completed and Ongoing
5 GL	Maintain a Climate Action Team, to support delivery of climate and biodiversity action, which will include the minimum of a Climate Action Co-Ordinator, Climate Action Officer, Community Climate Action Officer, Environmental Awareness Officer, Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer, Biodiversity Officer, Heritage Officer and Energy Officer with administrative support	Planned Development and Environment Directorate	2024-2029	The majority of the Climate Action Team was in place for 2024. The Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer is to be filled	Completed
6 GL	Maintain a cross departmental Green Team to deliver climate actions, improved resource efficiency, engagement of staff on energy efficiency and active travel	Green Team, Environment (Climate Action Team)	2024 - 2029	The Green Team are in place where membership was reviewed in 2024. In 2024 there was 6 number meetings held. Projects include: Woolly Jumper Day, A green team leaflet, Staff recipes competition and the implementation of recycled paper policy.	Completed and Ongoing
7 GL	Liaise, collaborate and work in partnership with the Eastern & Midlands CARO and members of the Mid-East sub-region in the delivery of climate actions.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2024 - 2029	8 total meetings last year 4 formal and 4 operational. No Regional Steering Group meetings last year. Projects in partnership with Wicklow County Council would have included the delivery of the Climate Action Plan, Pathfinder projects and Green Club Programme. CARO delivered LA Climate Action Training and DZ workshops	Completed

8 GL	Meet with the Municipal Districts to support delivery of climate action at local level, meeting staff three times a year and elected representatives once a year.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2024 - 2029	Members of the Climate Action Team attended two District Engineers meetings last year. Presented at Arklow MD and Blessington MD meetings. Presented at 3 different SPCs during 2024 (twice at the Planning and three times at the CABA SPC), CPC and the Ordinary Meeting in 2024.	Completed and Ongoing
9 GL	Communicate the local impacts of climate change and communicate the opportunities for Climate Action through media platforms.	Environment (Climate Action, EAO)	2024 - 2029	Members of the Climate Action Team gave local radio interviews on various topics such as The Climate Action Plan, The Biodiversity Plan, Community Climate Action Programme, The Heritage Plan and the Circular Economy.	Completed
10 GL	Screen Local Area Plans and future Development Plans for climate resilience ensuring they consider compact development, biodiversity resilience, active travel, sustainable economic development, consider associated climate action co-benefits and environmental protection requirements.	Planning	2024 - 2029	Two Number Local Area Plans reviewed in 2024 including the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan and Blessington Local Area Plan by a member of the Climate Action Team.	Completed and Ongoing
11 GL	Lead the energy unit for the region including Wicklow, Kildare, and Meath Local Authorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share experience on energy management • develop Pathfinder and other projects to improve the energy performance of local authority buildings, having appropriate regard to protected structure conservation requirements. 	Mid-East Energy Unit, Wicklow County Council	2024 - 2029	Continuing to progress carbon saving and efficiency improvement projects across the region through engagement with County Councils and SEAI Pathfinder fund. Framework established to engage with EPC Energy Performance Contractors to carry out improvements to Leisure centres across the region	In Progress

12 GL	<p>Accreditation to the International Standard for Energy Management ISO 50001 by 2024 to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual plan • register of opportunities • 3-year cycle • energy review <p>Including monitoring and reporting to SEAI.</p>	Environment (Energy Officer)	2024-2029	ISO50001 accreditation achieved by Wicklow County Council in Sept 2024. Continuous improvement and M&R ongoing. Energy Action Plan and Audit Plan in place.	Completed and Ongoing
13 GL	Display Energy Certificates for WCC's public buildings including the Swimming Pools, Municipal District Offices, Libraries and County Buildings.	Environment (Energy Officer)	2024-2029	Completed and displayed in 17 buildings in 2024. Annual revision of certificates ongoing.	Completed
14 GL	Promote the development and uptake of remote/ blended working policies in line with the National Remote Work Strategy through Climate Action and other communication strategies, wherever these can reduce car journeys.	ECS (Corporate Services)	2024-2029	Wicklow County Council operate 250 of our staff availed of blended working in 2024 which is 32% of the total	In Progress

7.2 Theme 2: Built Environment & Transport (BET) – 24 Actions

No.	Action	Lead Department	Timeframe	Progress Report 2024	Status
1 BET	<p>Prioritise decarbonisation of significant energy usage buildings within the Local Authority whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Leisure Centres • County Buildings • Bray Fire Station 	Mid-East Energy Unit, Environment (Energy Officer)	2024 to 2029	EPC contractors appointed to framework to address Energy usage in 2no. Shoreline leisure centres. Coral leisure centres progressing with energy review. County buildings partially decarbonised through replacement of main gas boiler with ASHP. Bray fire station upgrade and decarbonisation project complete with new heatpump heating system, window and door replacement, appliance bay doors and additionally solar pv added. Now 30kw or 70 solar panels.	Completed and Ongoing
2 BET	Investigate and undertake a pilot to incorporate reuse of material or systems into a housing development, lowering life-cycle carbon emissions.	Housing and / or Municipal Districts	2024-2029	Planning to salvage granite material from Rockbrae house for new development on the site.	Not Started
3 BET	Use low carbon construction methods, materials and low carbon cement as far as practicable for construction projects. Whole life-cycle analysis should be considered in all projects.	Housing and / or Municipal Districts	2024-2029	Use of ICF and timber frame in all our developments which are of a lower carbon lifecycle figures than masonry block ; No of projects were 4 , completed in 2024.	Completed and Ongoing

4 BET	Phase out installation of heating systems that use fossil fuels in any new dwellings or buildings constructed or major renovation retrofit projects by 2025, 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, during any retrofitting works.	Housing	2025	In 2024 110 housing retrofits across the country under the housing energy retrofit program. WCC Work with our contractors Big H Plumbers, CDM contractors and our energy design partners REIL. Retrofit Scheme at Monastery Grove. Completed nominated for ICE/LAMA Award. All new construction projects are built using renewable heating systems.	Completed
5 BET	Implement and promote the National Retrofitting Housing Programme for Wicklow housing stock, achieving a BER of B2 or cost optimal level equivalent. A minimum of 700 housing units to be refurbished. Provide a minimum of 750 newly constructed housing units to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or in compliance with relevant guidelines within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan 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, during any retrofitting works.	Housing	2024-2029	<p>In 2024 110 housing retrofits across the country under the housing energy retrofit program.</p> <p>167 units were delivered by Wicklow County Council last year. These were newly constructed housing units to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2.</p> <p>4 no new Age Friendly Apartments, The Green, Kilcoole, County Wicklow. Nominated for LAMA Awarded</p> <p>Total newly constructed or Part 5s was 220 units delivered in 2024 which are A2 standard.</p>	Completed
6 BET	Develop a pilot to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures - using exemplar retrofitting projects, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species that may be present in such buildings and European sites.	Environment (Energy Officer)	2025 - 2028	Building Register completed identifying heritage buildings owned and operated by Wicklow County Council. Working with the Library Service, Clermont and Wicklow District Offices to develop opportunities for retrofit of historic buildings.	In Progress

7 BET	Complete the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme following guidance in the Public Lighting Retrofitting Guidance Document and reviewing the existing public lighting levels including the use of lower colour temperature in National Park areas and areas with recorded bat populations. Having due regard for the impact the spectrum of light used will have on protected nocturnal species such as bats.	TWES and Public Lighting	2024- 2028	PLEEP project underway and progressing in Wicklow. 650 lanterns replaced in 2024. There is 15,750 PL in Wicklow of which 10,867 are LEDS or 69%. No data on colour temp change.	In Progress
8 BET	Develop and implement an EV charging strategy that ensures geographic spread and access in areas without opportunity for homeowners to charge on their own properties, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, and local air quality.	TID & Municipal Districts	2024 strategy delivered, 2028 review	Wicklow Council Staff attending and assisting a regional EV strategy with Kildare County Council as lead. To be completed in 2025.	In Progress
9 BET	Install EV charge points within local authority housing developments, in compliance with the Development Plan, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, and local air quality.	Housing	2024-2029	The council housing team completed 4 estates this year Cois Droichead (41 units), Merrymeeting phase 2 (21 units), Ballyneerin (10 units) Ard Darach Shillelagh (20 units) All complied with CDP EV requirements.	Completed

10 BET	Deliver the development of a high quality cycling and pedestrian network through Active Travel measures in urban areas and connecting communities. Ensure supported active travel development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.	TWES (Active Travel)	2024-2029	Completed 3 Active Travel Projects: 1. Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities - 530m of footpath 2. Arklow South Active Travel Improvements - 1.4km footpath, 2.9km cycle track, upgraded zebra crossings on roundabout and 1 junction tightening 3. Greystones Pathfinder - Church Road Upgrade - 400m shared vehicle/cyclist carriageway, 2 junction tightening, 1 new zebra crossing and Kilcoole Road Footpath 430m	Completed and Ongoing
11 BET	Promote and support participation of schools in <i>Safer Routes to School</i> , ensuring any ancillary development has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.	TWES, Active Travel	2024-2029	Completed SRTS works at 4 schools: 1. St Michael and Peter Junior School, Arklow 2. St. Kevin's National School, Greystones 3. St. John's Senior National School, Arklow 4. Scoil Nioclais Naofa, Dunlavin	Completed and Ongoing

12 BET	Strengthen towns and villages through enhancement of green infrastructure measures and/or sustainable transport linkages, having due regards for environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.	ECS (TRO)	2024-2029	<p>The following projects were been progressed during 2024:</p> <p>a) Kirikee, Glenmalure - Renovation works are planned for the Community Centre, including the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls.</p> <p>b) Lacken - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. As the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures (2022–2028), a conservation architect has been appointed.</p> <p>c) Wicklow Town – Murrough BMX Pump Track - This project involves the development of a best-in-class, pump track suitable for all ages and abilities.</p> <p>d) Baltinglass RRDF – Public Realm Works to the town centre. Tender pack currently being priced and assessed by consultants.</p> <p>e) Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004 - A revised business case has been sent to DHL&H in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed works.</p>	In Progress
13 BET	Complete Local Area Transport Studies for Greystones and Arklow and progress plans for other communities whilst ensuring such plans have due regard to opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits and planning and environmental protection considerations.	TWES (Active Travel)	2024-2029	Greystones and Arklow Local Area Transport Studies are ongoing	In Progress

14 BET	Facilitate the planning and delivery of the Bus Connects and Bus Service Corridors to facilitate modal transfer to bus services on the N11 including the N11 Bus Corridor and the Park and Ride Infrastructure Strategy for facilities at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fassaroe, • Ashford / Rathnew • Kilpedder 	TWES	2025	The Ashford Bus Park and Ride Scheme was submitted under Part 8 Planning in November 2024. The Fassaroe Park and Ride Scheme went out to tender in 2024. Changes in Bus connects to be advanced in 2025.	In Progress
15 BET	Facilitate the planning and delivery of the Dart Plus Scheme, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure the scheme and any associated development and activities promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	TWES	2027	Bray Dart Interchange Scheme substantially completed in 2024.	Completed and Ongoing
16 BET	Facilitate the planning and delivery of the LUAS Bray Scheme, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure the scheme and any associated development and activities promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	TWES	2030	Not Commenced	Not Started
17 BET	Assist the development of shared mobility services by increasing the number of bike facilities, e-bike schemes and shared mobility parking areas.	TWES and Municipal Districts	2024-2029	An E-bike scheme expression of interest was issued for Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow. Wicklow County Council was in discussions with the preferred interested party in 2024.	In Progress

18 BET	Implement measures to increase modal shift from private cars by visitors to the county to using public transport; looped tourism bus services; E-mobility infrastructure; regulation of parking; Glendalough Master Plan. Ensure supported development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.	TWES	2024-2029	Improved car park in Laragh to improve traffic within the Glendalough valley. Focus on Wicklow Way itineraries accessed using public transport using journalists and influencers. E-Mobility Scheme Expression of Interest issued for Wicklow, Bray, Greystones and Arklow Towns.	In Progress
19 BET	Complete an inventory of the existing council fleet and develop a fleet management policy achieving a target of 51% reduction in emissions, which includes the procurement of the fleet and an objective for decarbonising existing fleet. 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.	TWES and Machinery Yard	2024	Draft Fleet Management policy developed in 2024. Fleet Inventory completed in 2024.	In Progress

20 BET	<p>Fleet Management:</p> <p>Implement a transport energy management system including a fuel management system into the council fleet.</p> <p>Procure only zero emission vehicles, unless the vehicle is exempt under EC Regs SI381 of 2021, whilst ensuring appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for zero emission vehicles.</p> <p>Investigate options to convert the existing council fleet to a low carbon fuel source where feasible such as Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO), whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced.</p>	TWES and Machinery Yard	2024-2029	<p>Assessment of Machinery Yard vehicles underway. Trial of Small EV van in Arklow for district Electrician in 2024. Very positive feedback. EV vehicles to be procured in 2025. HVO fuel progressed in 2024. HVO was investigated and an agreement has been reached for a three month trial. This is due to commence in 2025.</p>	In Progress
21 BET	<p>Incorporate the use of more sustainable methods of delivering road improvements, cycle paths and footpaths (e.g. the use of RAP, road recycling methods, micro-surfacing into the annual roads programme).</p>	TWES and Municipal Districts	2024-2029	<p>The council utilise road recycling methods on an annual basis. DOT projects now have 2025 targets for use of warm mix in road resurfacing projects.</p>	In Progress

22 BET	<p>Standardise the management of drainage systems within the council including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the regular maintenance of regional and local road drainage systems, having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.• the recording and mapping of areas impacted by weather events (Climate Change events) including the implementation of technology such as the Weather Impact Register (WIRE) App to capture impacts, response and costs (including ecosystem services/natural capital costs)• mapping the location of attenuation tanks and drainage systems on Arc GIS	TWES and Municipal Districts	2024-2029	Not Commenced. Each District has their own management systems in place.	Not Started
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23 BET	Deliver climate adaptation works on infrastructure through the Climate Change Adaption & Resilience Works and drainage funding programmes, having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.	Municipal Districts and TWES	2024-2029	<p>Three number projects were delivered in the Wicklow Municipal District,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slaughter Hill-Edge Protection and Drainage with edge strengthening and drainage. 2. Wicklow Gap-Drainage and Edge Protection works. 3. Milltown Lane R772 Drainage: drainage pipes on main street <p>Two number in the Bray Municipal District,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calary Upper-Flood relief: drainage crossing and new drain through field to stream outlet 2. Calary Station-Flood Relief: Raise the road levels and install drain across junction <p>One in the Arklow Municipal District</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knockmillar Retaining Wall: Construction of new retaining wall to support the road and protect motorists from the stream <p>One in the Baltinglass Municipal District</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kilcoagh-Drainage Scheme: install drainage pipes, gullies and headwall 	Completed
24 BET	Develop a mobility plan to reduce emissions from travel by staff including promoting the Cycle to Work Scheme; shared mobility options including a Smart Mobility Hub at the county buildings including E-bikes, an EV pool car, and training for staff on the operation of same.	TID, Environment Housing and Corporate Services (Training Officer)	2024-2029	<p>Bike Parking Facilities have been provided at County Buildings. Two E-Bikes have been provided at County Buildings. The council intend to provide a shared e-bike scheme for Wicklow/Rathnew. Additionally the council are seeking to provide an EV pool car to complement the e-bike mobility scheme. Submissions and quotes sought from EV car companies for staff pool vehicle. Possible award in Feb 2025 of EV pool car. Once these are in place a mobility plan will be produced for the County Buildings.</p>	In Progress

7.3 Theme 3: Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure (NEGI) – 30 Actions

No.	Action	Lead Department	Timeframe	Progress Report 2024	Status
1 NEGI	Engage with neighbouring local authorities and other relevant organisations (including Irish Rail) on coastal erosion, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported coastal erosion works and development promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Environment and Climate Action Team	2024 - 2029	Irish Rail, Wicklow County Council, DLR County Council, Dublin City Council and Jacobs are part of a working group for the East Coast Railway Infrastructure Protection Project. The project is seeking to provide measures for coastal erosion from Dublin to Wicklow Town. Wicklow County Council have also met with Wexford County Council to discuss the Coastal Erosion Management Studies taking place in Wicklow between Brittas Bay and the county Wexford boundary and to discuss a number of schemes in County Wexford.	In Progress
2 NEGI	Update flood event emergency response plans including supporting the development of a flood forecasting and warning system. Ensure to incorporate Climate resilience.	TWES	2024 - 2029	The council have a major emergency plan in place. Additionally there is a major emergency management committee in place. Met Eireann issue updates through their IFICS system which provides a flood forecasting and warning system. An email is issued to SWFLM emergency mail system. Then Environment and Emergency Service staff decides whether to call a SWAT team meeting. At this meeting each District decides whether to activate an emergency response plan and at what level of action is required.	Completed

<p>3 NEGI</p>	<p>Ensure all relevant legislation and regulation on climate change and flood management is integrated into council policies and guidelines, including the promoting of natural flood measures.</p> <p>Undertake Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of all Local Area Plans and Development Plans.</p> <p>Implement the OPW Flood Risk Management Guidelines and best practices to ensure that all developments consider climate resilience and demonstrate that they integrate Nature-Based SuDS and Nature-Based Solutions to address surface water management. Ensure due regard is given to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.</p>	<p>Planning & Environment</p>	<p>2024 - 2029</p>	<p>The council have implemented Strategic Flood Risk Assessments of our Local Area Plans and County Development Plan.</p> <p>All relevant legislation and regulation on climate change and flood management is integrated into council planning policies and guidelines, including the promoting of natural flood measures. An example of this is the councils Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) policy and guidelines.</p> <p>The Environment Section help to assess planning applications on Flood Risk and best practices to ensure that all developments consider climate resilience and demonstrate that they integrate Nature-Based SuDS and Nature-Based Solutions to address surface water management.</p>	<p>Completed and Ongoing</p>
<p>4 NEGI</p>	<p>Seek a buffer of generally 25-metre along watercourses as riparian zones for urban areas in line with the Inland Fisheries Ireland publication 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' and the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p>	<p>Planning, Housing</p>	<p>2024 - 2029</p>	<p>The Council Planning Department and Environment section seek to implement a general 25- metre buffer along watercourses and this is supported by planning policies including the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) policy.</p>	<p>Completed and Ongoing</p>
<p>5 NEGI</p>	<p>Develop and implement an integrated SuDS policy to guide planning, installation, monitoring and maintenance to improve storm-water management. Provide training on SuDS implementation to key staff, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality.</p>	<p>Environment</p>	<p>2024-2029</p>	<p>Draft Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) Policy completed to be brought before the Council in 2025. Staff training to be provided. A number of projects are been implemented within the County.</p>	<p>Completed and Ongoing</p>

6 NEGI	Develop demonstration sites highlighting Nature-Based SuDS providing flood attenuation systems within existing urban areas, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality.	TWES (Municipal Districts)	2024 - 2029	Greystones Municipal District has been providing a number of demonstration sites. Additionally the new private developments within the County have some good examples of NB SuDS. Active Travel is incorporating NB SuDS within their designs.	Completed and Ongoing
7 NEGI	Support and facilitate LAWPRO projects improving water quality within the county catchments. Example scheme: Avonmore <i>Waters of Life Project</i> , having due regard to the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.	Environment (Pollution Control)	2024-2027	Wicklow County Council is working with LAWPro as part of a Regional Working Group for the greater Dublin Area.	In Progress
8 NEGI	Prioritise the use of nature-based SuDS on local authority schemes within the following areas: 1. Roads - ensure drainage works are considered at the preliminary design stage of project development for all road and infrastructure projects 2. Housing - integrate nature-based SuDS techniques from the initial preliminary design stage to project completion. Additionally utilise water demand technologies into all housing capital projects. Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality.	TWES Housing	2024-2029	Housing Capital Schemes and Active Travel are using NB SuDS within their designs. Baltinglass Roundabout scheme includes NB Solutions including Swales.	In Progress

9 NEGI	<p>Deliver the following Flood Relief Schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arklow Flood Relief Scheme • Avoca Flood Relief Scheme • Baltinglass Flood Relief Scheme <p>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.</p>	Environment	2028	<p>Arklow Flood Relief Scheme: The scheme is currently in design stage, based on our current programme of works a main contractor will be appointed by the end of 2025 with works commencing in Q1 2026. The works are programmed for a period of 4 years with a completion date of Q4 2029.</p> <p>Avoca Flood Relief Scheme: A brief for consultant services is currently being developed, it is intended to have a consultant appointed in 2025 to undertake the Stage 3 design.</p>	In Progress
10 NEGI	<p>Work with the OPW in order to review and progress more detailed studies on schemes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessington Flood Relief Scheme • Greystones & Environs Flood Relief Scheme • Wicklow & Ashford Flood Relief Scheme • facilitate the hydraulic modelling of the Bray Flood Relief Scheme • facilitate the OPW to conduct a review of the PFRA with regard to flood risk arising from floods on surface water infrastructure such as culverts. <p>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.</p>	Environment	2024 - 2029	This Action has not commenced	Not Started

11 NEGI	Incorporate Nature-Based measures for coastal erosion in order to support the conservation and management of sand dunes at Brittas Bay, having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value.	Environment and Planning (Heritage Officer)	2024 - 2029	Two Coastal Erosion Management Studies are been implemented between Brittas Bay to the County Wexford Boundary. These studies will make recommendations for this area. Nature Based solutions are also been conducted by Wicklow Municipal District in the form of Chestnut fencing and through Sea Buckthorn removal. Educational signage has been erected promoting the importance of the Sand Dunes and the works taking place.	Completed and Ongoing
12 NEGI	Undertake an audit of council owned land for suitability for micro-woodlands/biodiversity by end-2025 and to set targets for planting/management with suitable vegetation. Incorporate three pilot woodlands on public lands schemes in Bray, Wicklow & Grangecon.	Environment (Biodiversity Officer), Corporate Estate and Housing	2024-2025	Biodiversity Officer and Graduate have commenced reviewing this item.	In Progress
13 NEGI	Promote the implementation of best practice pollinator friendly and Green Infrastructure guidance for managing greenspace by Municipal Districts to include: mowing regimes, hedgerow, tree care weed & riparian zones management. These standards shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard of the need to appropriately manage these habitats.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2025-2027	Guidelines issued from Alternatives to Glyphosate. Will seek to organise a demonstration day in 2025.	In Progress
14 NEGI	Implement the Glyphosate policy within the MD's, developing an integrated approach, working with other LAs to establish best practice, identifying and trialling best alternative practices.	Environment	2024-2029	Wicklow County Council joined an SLA with 10 other LA's, Maynooth University, Trinity, GAA Green Clubs where the use of alternatives are trialled and tested where best practice is shared within the SLA. Additionally The Climate Action Team circulate the policy and help the MD's register their trained staff who utilise Glyphosate. MD's are requested to forward their completed business cases to the environment section for record keeping.	Completed and Ongoing

15 NEGI	Review and update the Wicklow Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of the built, natural and cultural heritage, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.	Planning (Heritage Office)	2024	Draft Heritage Plan approved Nov 2024, final to be adopted Q1 2025	Completed
16 NEGI	Undertake a climate risk assessment of LA owned heritage assets (natural and built), following guidance to come from DHLGH for LAs on methodology, identifying priority areas for action, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.	Planning (Heritage Office) Environment (Climate Action)	2025-2029	Not Commenced	Not Started
17 NEGI	Review and update the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including climate-relevant measures having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.	Planning & Environment	2025-2029	Biodiversity Action Plan currently under review. Draft actions have been prepared through the Biodiversity Forum. An Environmental Report has to be prepared and a Draft report is to be produced. Once a Draft Report has been approved, it will proceed to public consultation.	In Progress

18 NEGI	Implement pollinator conservation initiatives on public realm sites, creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitats based on most up-to-date scientific advice from All Ireland Pollinator Plan, ensuring sites and actions are mapped with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2024-2029	Not commenced	Not Started
19 NEGI	Review the Tree Management Policy and support its implementation.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2025	It is hoped that the Tree Management Policy will commence a review in 2025	Not Started
20 NEGI	Develop a hedgerow plan for the county with actions to map, protect and develop hedgerows, having due regard to hedgerow area conservation requirements and the need to avoid habitat fragmentation.	Environment (Biodiversity Officer)	2025-2026	Underway in 2024.	In Progress
21 NEGI	Develop an integrated programme to address invasive alien species through education and with recording and eradication programmes in the public realm. This programme shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage and prevent the spread of invasive species.	TID	2025-2029	TID treats Japanese Knotweed annually via a Contractor. Register of locations maintained for 3 year cycle. 100 sites registered in 2023.	Completed and Ongoing
22 NEGI	Liaise with CCMA and ETBs to devise and deliver accredited biodiversity training for local authority staff on biodiversity, with a module on climate links. Material created at regional / national level, delivered locally in each LA.	ECS (Training Officer)	2025 -2029	Not Commenced	Not Started

23 NEGI	Pilot a biodiversity-inclusive design for a social housing estate considering the following elements within the design: green roofs, green walls, wetland, pond, Nature-Based SuDS, green car parking, nest boxes in facades, grasslands, wildlife friendly shrubs and trees in open space, , ensuring development have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.	Housing	2028	Pilot biodiversity design for social housing estate in Burgage with Nature based SUDs, bat boxes, bird boxes, hedgehog boxes, 156 additional trees to be planted, PV panels, wider boundary hedges, and swift boxes. Also the development is a PPP site. Potters View and Bay in Arklow is at Design stage but will pilot similar biodiversity measures.	In Progress
24 NEGI	Assist local community stakeholders engaging in peatland rewetting, woodland creation and nature restoration to access funding to undertake projects in upland areas, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects are designed and implemented in a manner that accords with relevant environmental protection requirements.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2024-2029	Two projects received funding under the CCAF one to plant trees in upland gullies and a second one to develop a tree nursery using seeds with local provenance. An application for EU horizon funding has been submitted in partnership with the Wicklow Uplands Council, LAWPRO and the East Wicklow Rivers Trust to develop strategy for rewetting a catchment.	Completed and Ongoing
25 NEGI	Host an annual uplands forum to develop an integrated partnership with key stakeholders to develop carbon sequestration, catchment management and tackle recreational pressures on upland sites delivering protection of habitat.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2024-2029	An Uplands Council is in place which members of the Climate Action Team attend. Currently there are meetings on a range of initiatives including developing a DARK SKY initiative with the NPWS and WUC, a river catchment restoration project with WUC, the EWRT and LAWPRO, a dog control campaign with the WUC and a diverse stakeholder for the Vision for Venison project	Completed and Ongoing

26 NEGI	Develop a hill and forest fire management response and prevention strategy, including protocols for responding to fires, enforcement, awareness campaigns of the impact of fires and systems to measure the extent and economic costs of fires having appropriate regard to the need to support the achievement of conservation objectives and protect and enhance important habitats or the qualifying interests of any protected sites.	TWES	2026 -2027	<p>The Council will run a MODEX exercise in 2025 that will test all element of the response to wildfires. EU MODEX is an Urban Search and Rescue Modules that gives responders the chance to test their preparedness for a real-life event. Develop a hill and forest fire management response and prevention strategy – in terms of the response to wildfires Wicklow Fire Service works with its partner agencies on an annual basis to extinguish fires in the shortest possible time. This includes annual preparation and planning to ensure the most efficient wildfire response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicklow County Fire Service • Coillte • National Parks and Wildlife Service • Air Corps helicopters • Civilian helicopters <p>In terms of wildfire prevention Wicklow County Fire Service provides education, encourages good practice through press and social media campaigns and enforcement. Wicklow County Fire Service has Standard Operational Guidance on responding to wildfires. Awareness is achieved through national media campaigns and local social media messaging. There are national studies which highlight the impact of wildfires including the economic costs of fires, this is not a role fulfilled at a local level, other than to publicise when appropriate. NPWS is responsible for achievement of conservation objectives and protect and enhance important habitats or protected sites.</p>	Not Started
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27 NEGI	Work with stakeholders to delineate and establish a Dark Sky Reserve for County Wicklow. Undertaking a light assessment of Laragh and Roundwood to explore opportunities to reduce light pollution.	Environment (Climate Action), TWES	2027	Meetings held with Wicklow Uplands council, NPWS, Biodiversity Officer, Dark Skies, Public Lighting and Wicklow County Council.	In Progress
28 NEGI	Map green infrastructure for the five largest towns to develop an integrated approach, implementing objectives in the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans.	Planning, Environment (Climate Action Team)	2024-2029	Green Infrastructure was mapped for the Blessington Local Area Plan and the Wicklow & Rathnew Local Area Plan.	Completed and Ongoing
29 NEGI	Build climate resilience of architectural and archaeological heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as the BHIS, HSF, HTI, IWTN and the Community Monument Fund, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.	Planning (Heritage Office)	2024-2029	Wicklow Community Monument Fund (CMF) list of projects 2024 CMF24-1-WI002 DRUMGOFF BARRACKS €12,159 Vegetation control under ecological supervision to facilitate building survey CMF24-1-WI004 MULLINACUFF CHURCH €83,078 Masonry repair and consolidation works to medieval church CMF24-2-WI002 DRUMGOFF BARRACKS €29,889 Preparation of a Conservation management plan CMF24-2-WI003 KILMACANOGUE CH & GRAVEYARD €30,000 Preparation of a Conservation management plan CMF24-2-WI005 ST KEVINS CH HOLLYWOOD €30,000 Preparation of a Conservation management plan CMF24-3-WI001 KILRANELAGH GRAVEYARD €8795 Historical research , digital mapping and recording of headstones and markers. Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) grants allocated 2024 for conservation and repair BHIS24/WW01 Christ Church, Bray	Completed

				€14,000.00 BHIS24/WW02 Russborough, Blessington €15,000.00 BHIS24/WW03 Lawnview, Church Hill, Enniskerry €15,000.00 BHIS24/WW05 Nuns Cross Coi, Ashford €10,0145 BHIS24/WW08 Church Of Ascension, Ballinure €3,705.00 BHIS24/WW10 Natures Gold, 1 Killincarrig Road, Greystones €3,000.00 BHIS24/WW11 Old Bolting Mill, Newtownmountkennedy €2790.00 BHIS24/WW13 4 Royal Marine Terrace €2,999.00 BHIS24/WW14 The Gamekeepers Lodge, Coolattin €9,023.00 BHIS24/WW15 Dawn Cottage, Ballinahinch, Ashford €15,000 BHIS24/WW16 Creech Barrow, Delgany €2,667.0 Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant allocations 2024 for conservation and repairs HSF24- 130 Clermont House Rathnew - €170,000 Roof repair HSF24- 131- Coollattin House, Shillelagh €170,000 Roof Repairs HSF24-150- Old Post Office, Main Street Shillelagh €20,000 to Renewal of historic shopfront HSF24-157-Rosebank, Avoca €10,000 Window repairs on vernacular house administered in 2024	
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30 NEGI	Support engagement of stakeholders on initiatives that assist in the control and management of deer.	Environment (Biodiversity Officer)	2024-2029	A Vision for Venison event was held in October as part of Climate Action Week. The event was a public relations event highlighting the versatility of venison as a product. Local media and the Irish Independent attended the event.	Completed and Ongoing
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7.4 Theme 4: Communities Resilience & Transition (CRT) – 24 Actions

No.	Action	Lead Department	Timeframe	Progress Report 2024	Status
1 CRT	Administer the funding to local community groups for climate action through the Community Climate Action Fund ensuring a diversity of themes covered. Include sustainability and climate change scoring on relevant grant assessments to ensure that community groups/stakeholders consider climate action in all their grant funded activities	Environment (Community Climate Action Officer)	2024-2029	The Community Climate Action Officer has administered a Fund of €646,000 in 2024 to 20 different community groups. At the end of 2024 the projects were at implementation stage. The DECC also required the first stage drawdown request for the fund. Additionally DECC has stated that there will be a new phase of the programme in Q2 of 2025.	Completed and Ongoing
2 CRT	Liaise with renewable energy developers on the Community Benefit Fund to ensure a climate focus in funding to communities. Learnings from the Ballinagran community fund.	Environment (Climate Team)	2024-2029	The Council have been engaging with a number of renewable energy developers such as Dublin Array, Codling Wind Park, SSE Renewables and EirGrid.	In Progress
3 CRT	Deliver capacity building and training for local communities to develop leadership on climate action and biodiversity action annually.	Environment (Climate Team)	2024-2029	The Council ran various training events in 2024 aimed at various elements of the community including Tidy town Groups, Sports Clubs, Businesses and various community groups during events such as Biodiversity Week, Climate Action week and Sustainable Development Goals Week	Completed
4 CRT	Quarterly communications to PPN on climate action to be disseminated through their newsletter. And communications through social media and the council website.	Climate Action Team	2024-2029	The Climate Action Team worked with the PPN on various County Initiatives during 2024. Including In Person, Online and Workshop type events.	Completed
5 CRT	Develop a 'Green Events Policy' for events and filming on location to ensure best practice on site.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2025	A Draft Green events Policy is under development and will be delivered in 2025.	In Progress

6 CRT	Develop an annual ' <i>Climate Action Week</i> ' with a range of educational events throughout the county delivered by a range of participants.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2024-2029	Climate Action Week Delivered in October 2024. This will be delivered in September 2025.	Completed
7 CRT	Recognise the work being done in the county by all sectors in the community on local climate action initiatives and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals targets through the annual 'Sustainable Development Awards'.	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	In March 2024, the council held our Annual Awards night. A total of 70 Sustainable Development Awards were awarded to various Tidy Towns groups, community groups, resident associations and schools. The awards include Tidy Main Streets Awards and Tidy Estates.	Completed and Ongoing
8 CRT	Support citizen science projects and third level research to target climate sensitive species through collaboration, training and provision of equipment through libraries.	Environment (Biodiversity Officer)	2025-2029	Action not commenced	Not Started
9 CRT	Promote Green Schools and Heritage in schools. Programmes to encourage active engagement on climate and biodiversity with a focus on TY students.	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	Wicklow County Council continues to support the An Taisce Green Schools programme. Over 108 Primary schools and Secondary schools were active in 2024 within the county. A total of 22 schools were awarded a green flag in 2024. As part of the programme the EAO completes the renewal visit and in addition funds and supports other complimentary programmes.	Completed and Ongoing
10 CRT	Support the work of SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) in County Wicklow, assisting them to network, access funding and promote their events and projects.	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	Wicklow now has 11 SECs partnered with Wicklow County Council. Greystones was shortlisted for an SEAI award in 2024 for its solar meitheal. Other SECs in the county are exploring replicating the project. Arklow SEC undertook an insulation meitheal, the first of its kind in the country. Carnew Community Care and Wicklow Town SEC were both successful with applications for funding under the CCAF with projects to upgrade community buildings.	Completed and Ongoing

11 CRT	Support community groups in their efforts to develop communal gardens and allotments.	CCSD; Municipal Districts	2024-2026	An expression of interest was undertaken in April receiving 40 submissions. A report was submitted to management. Contacts have been made with a number of groups including the Blessington Allotment campaign, the Ashford Wicklow & Rathnew group, the Tinahely group and Beechdale residents association. An Edibel Arklow project has been started with Arklow Tidy Towns and County Wicklow Partnership.	Completed and Ongoing
12 CRT	Promote tree planting by providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an annual tree planting grant for communities and schools • trees to communities during National Tree Week 	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	Our annual tree planting grant was awarded to 11 community groups and resident associations. A total of 800 native and non-native trees handed out as part of National Tree Week to 35 groups within the County.	Completed and Ongoing

13 CRT	<p>Incorporate climate action into all plans under the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Development Fund • Urban Regeneration and Development Fund • Town and Village Renewal Scheme • CLÁR Scheme <p>Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European Sites and biodiversity related sensitivities, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately protected and conserve cultural heritage features.</p>	CCSD (Town Regeneratio n Officer – Town Centre First)	2024-2025	<p>The following projects were been progressed during 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blue print for Blessington RF0189 Blessington has been awarded €1.293m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre. This scheme will encourage a modal shift. 2. Making Baltinglass a HUB for south west Wicklow RFD0110 will be progressed in 2025. This scheme will encourage a modal shift. 3. Kirikee, Glenmalure - Renovation works are planned in 2025 for the Community Centre, including the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls making the building more Climate resilient. 4. Lacken - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. As the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures (2022–2028), a conservation architect has been appointed. This will make the building more climate resilient. 5. Bray Harbour Improvements – URDF Wic0004 - A revised business case has been sent to DHL&H in December 2024. A tender brief is currently being prepared for the procurement of engineering consultancy services to produce detailed designs, environmental reports and an application to An Bord Pleanála for the proposed works. 	In Progress
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14 CRT	Develop sustainability in the arts with <i>Creative Climate Action</i> funding.	CCSD (Arts Office)	2024-2029	The Culture Team meets 4 times a year. The role is to think collaboratively and allocate funding to programme measures for the county. Several of these are on creative climate action. In 2024 an additional 33k for a project on climate action, biodiversity and the River Dargle for example to work through film and public participation programme	Completed and Ongoing
15 CRT	Promote the awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation projects within the public realm, e.g. landscaping designs, roundabouts and murals.	Environment (Climate Team)	2024-2029	SDG's incorporated into Council policies and events. SDG week held in September 2024	In Progress
16 CRT	Guided by the memorandum of Understanding signed by the GAA and CCMA, Engage with the Green Club Programme working with the CARO and GAA, in the promotion and support of projects.	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	Wicklow County Councils Green Club Contact is Mark Costello and Jim Callery. In 2024 there was two Green Clubs in the County; Naomh Teagain/Kiltegan and Newtown GAA. Wicklow County Council engages with CARO and the GAA clubs promoting the Green Club Programme. In 2024 three GAA Clubs were supported through the Community Climate Action Programme including Naomh Teagain/Kiltegan, EireOg Greystones GAA and Kilbride GAA.	Completed and Ongoing
17 CRT	Promote the <i>Home Energy Savings Kit</i> scheme in WCC libraries, including training for staff.	Environment (EAO/Energy Officer)	2024-2029	There are 22 Home Energy Savings Kits in Wicklow Libraries. Additionally there are a number of kits available from the Climate Action Team for internal Staff. The Council run an awareness campaign and the kits are loaned regularly. All staff trained and aware of how to use the kits and how to report findings/faults with equipment. Kits available in all Wicklow libraries and on the mobile library.	Completed and Ongoing
18 CRT	Engage with the Age Friendly Team on events for active retirement and associated groups to provide information on best approaches to maintaining warmer homes and energy efficiency in the home.	CCSD	2024-2029	The Age Friendly Team offered Mount Lucas Energy Training during Climate Action Week. Unfortunately no training was provided. This will be offered again next year.	In Progress

19 CRT	Provide energy awareness talks and waste prevention workshops for local authority estates and new tenant induction courses.	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	Not Commenced	Not Started
20 CRT	Assess town regeneration plans for impact on mobility ensuring an approach that is age friendly and appropriate for all with mobility impairment.	CCSD (Town Regeneration Officer)	2024-2029	Blessington Town Centre First Plan has been published in November 2023. This considers Mobility and age friendly access. Newtown Mount Kennedy will commence this process in 2025.	In Progress
21 CRT	Provide accessible bus stops on new and existing routes.	TWES	2024- 2029	Works commenced on the new routes in 2024.	In Progress
22 CRT	Assess five existing large local authority housing schemes for public transport links and active travel access, whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and water and air quality.	TWES and Housing	2027	Not commenced	Not Started
23 CRT	Work with the <i>Healthy Food Made Easy Programme</i> and <i>Community Food Initiative</i> .	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	The Climate Action Team is represented on the newly established County Wicklow Food Forum. Two forum events were held in 2024 one in Arklow and one in Bray bring together organisations working on the delivery of food to those vulnerable to food poverty.	Completed and Ongoing
24 CRT	Provide workshops for children and young people to facilitate their input on climate change and biodiversity.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2024-2029	Youth Climate Action Conference held in partnership with Codling in East Glendalough Secondary School in Wicklow where the other secondary schools in Kilcoole, Greystones and Wicklow attended. A number of events were held during Climate Action Week and Sustainable development Goals week within the Library Service and Clermont House. Wicklow county Council will seek to host a Youth biodiversity conference in 2025.	Completed and Ongoing

7.5 Theme 5: Sustainability & Resource Management (SRM) – 20 Actions

No.	Action	Lead Department	Timeframe	Progress Report 2024	Status
1 SRM	Conduct a review of the civic amenity sites including: energy use, water demand, current layout, drainage and services.	Environment - Waste Management	2024 - 2029	Bray Civic Amenity Site currently under review. Arklow Civic Amenity Site has had solar PV added to the building.	In Progress
2 SRM	An awareness campaign in civic amenity sites on the life cycles of waste, exploring different options on the waste hierarchy.	Environment (EAO)	2025-2027	Not Commenced	Not Started
3 SRM	Implement a wider roll out of segregated brown bin collection systems and support the implementation of the National Waste Management Plan, whilst ensuring all supported initiatives accord with provision Waste Management Act and do not lead to adverse environmental impacts or nuisance.	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	A Food Waste campaign delivered incorporating a social media and workshops to staff in Autumn 2024. Bulky Waste	Completed and Ongoing
4 SRM	Support SME's through the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green for Micro programme • Climate Toolkit for businesses • Green Start programme with Enterprise Ireland • Climate Ready Training with Skillnet Ireland • Energy Efficiency grant. 	ECS (LEO)	2024-2029	Green for Business (used to be Green for Micro): 20 Climate Toolkit: 20 Green Start: 0 Energy Efficiency Grant: 3 Climate Ready training with Skillnet: Information on courses can be found at: https://www.skillnetclimatereadyacademy.ie/	Completed and Ongoing

5 SRM	<p>Promote uptake of energy performance measures in business and agricultural sectors through the promotion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAI programmes and Energy Audits • support scheme for renewable heat • micro and small-scale renewable energy generation • anaerobic digestion • energy efficient and heating control technology. <p>Whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported renewable energy development does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.</p>	ECS (LEO); Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	Educational Awareness events held during Climate Action Week. Local Enterprise Office (LEO) is also running annual programs and grants for Businesses, such as the Green for Business scheme.	In Progress
6 SRM	Develop a skills strategy for the county which includes training for emerging skill shortages such as renewables, energy efficiency, green technologies and also review the role of the Wicklow County Campus.	ECS (LEO)	2024-2025	A Skills Strategy for County Wicklow has been published.	Completed and Ongoing
7 SRM	Develop a renewables hub at the Wicklow Campus in Clermont to support development of the sector in County Wicklow, while ensuring that the businesses and projects supported accord with relevant planning and environmental protection criteria.	ECS (LEO)	2024-2029	The renewables hub has not commenced, however a work shop event for the sector has been held in 2024. KWETB are interested in building a hub in Clermont. There is a company interested in providing Energy Training through a Hub in Clermont.	In Progress
8 SRM	Develop remote working hubs in existing enterprise centres and support the development of working hubs in other strategic locations where space permits.	ECS (Economic Development Unit)	2024-2029	Seven private remote working hubs supported through #ChooseWicklow campaign. The GRID opened and offering remote working space. Design of Carnew Remote Working Hub progressed.	Completed and Ongoing

9 SRM	<p>Identify and implement Rural Development Fund initiatives that deliver on a transition towards a climate-neutral rural economy to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rural transport, • working hubs, • town and village regeneration • nature-based solutions • digital initiatives • green economy • bio-economy <p>Having appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection requirements, environmental sensitivities such as European Sites, biodiversity and opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits and interconnectivity.</p>	ECS (Town Regeneration Officer)	2024-2029	<p>The following projects were been progressed during 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blue print for Blessington RF0189 Blessington has been awarded €1.293m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to be used for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a vacant/derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre. Scheme to be progressed in 2025. 2. Making Baltinglass a HUB for south west Wicklow RFD0110 will be progressed in 2025. <p>a) Kirikee, Glenmalure - Renovation works are planned in 2025 for the Community Centre, including the roof, windows, ceilings, and walls.</p> <p>b) Lacken - The old schoolhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community centre featuring a café, community shop, and a small heritage section. As the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures (2022–2028), a conservation architect has been appointed.</p> <p>c) Wicklow Town – Murrough BMX Pump Track - This project involves the development of a best-in-class, pump track suitable for all ages and abilities.</p>	In Progress
10 SRM	Promote sustainability in the tourism, food and the hospitality sector.	ECS (Wicklow Tourism)	2024-2029	<p>Green for Tourism Sustainability Webinar organised in partnership with LEO (March 24). Vision for Venison event to showcase sustainable meat source in Wicklow.</p>	In Progress
11 SRM	Facilitate development of local markets for food producers in the county encouraging sustainable practice in the sector.	ECS (LEO), Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	<p>Extensive online promotion of Wicklow Naturally Food Producers network through the production of short videos, grow social media engagement and followers. Wicklow Naturally website enhanced to improve finding local producers. October Feast festival: two weeks of events showcasing local producers.</p>	Completed and Ongoing

12 SRM	Liaise with Signpost, ACRES, TAMS and Farming for Nature Schemes to support climate action in the agricultural sector. Help to promote farms to become demonstration farms and highlight the work being done in Wicklow to decarbonize agriculture and manage land using best practice for sustainability, development planning and environmental protection and enhancement.	Environment (Climate Action)	2024-2029	During Climate Action Week Wicklow County Council Co-hosted an agricultural online workshop with the IFA in partnership with Teagasc and Tirlan to help highlight supports to make farms more sustainable and to reduce their costs.	Completed and Ongoing
13 SRM	Promote the use of Green Public Procurement within the council.	FIS - Procurement Environment (Climate Change)	2024 - 2029	The use of GPP within WCC is promoted by WCC's Procurement Unit by various means including, but not limited to, the creation, maintenance, dissemination and promotion of WCC's GPP Internal Guidance Note to Staff and WCC's Procurement Policy and Procedures Document. Both documents signpost to a range of resources, toolkits, documentation, legislation etc. relating to GPP and explicitly acknowledge that GPP is not separate to Public Procurement but is integral to it. Continually promoted are Centralised Procurement Arrangements which have been established by the Office of Government Procurement in accordance with GPP requirements. Also continually promoted are a range of courses/training resources directly or indirectly related to GPP. These include eTenders training which incorporates the GPP Implementation Mandate Requirements when publishing 'Calls for Tender' and the promotion of various training resources provided by the Local Government Operations Procurement Centre (SupplyGov) and the Office of Government Procurement. This promotion is continual throughout the year. The Procurement Unit also alerts WCC Staff to GPP training either via/in collaboration with WCC's Training Officer or directly via email to all WCC Staff - the 2 most recent being those sent on 07/11/2024 and 13/11/2024 regarding, respectively, an EPA hosted Webinar on GPP and a MOOC relating to SDG 12.	Completed and Ongoing

14 SRM	Examine the potential of the former landfill sites of Ballymurtagh (Avoca) and Rampere (Baltinglass) for the development of green energy. Having due regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.	Environment and Waste Management	2029	A High Level Grid Connection Review has been commissioned for the Ballymurtagh Landfill Site in 2024.	In Progress
15 SRM	Monitor and enforce relevant environmental protection laws including applying the 'polluter pays' principal (particularly in relation to C&D and commercial waste).	Environment	2024 - 2029	<p>National By-Product Criteria Reference Number BP-N002/2024 establishes detailed criteria determining when greenfield soil and stone from undeveloped land, which is destined for lawful use at another development with appropriate planning permission or exemption, is a by-product and not a waste.</p> <p>Supporting the roll out of the Deposit Return Scheme. Promotion of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) schemes such as WEEE at civic amenity sites.</p> <p>Until such time as charges are implemented WCC will be an outlier in terms of implementing the polluter pays principle at LA level and will be at odds with commercial operators.</p>	In Progress
16 SRM	<p>Implement and further utilise Local Government Management Association shared services such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environment Management Information System (NEMIS) in recording statistics on environmental activity • Road Management Office systems • E-Planning • Building Control Management System • National Library Management System • Fix Your Street, etc. 	ECS (Information Systems)	2024 - 2029	<p>The council are currently implementing the following shared services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environment Management Information System (NEMIS) in recording statistics on environmental activity • Road Management Office systems • E-Planning • Building Control Management System • National Library Management System • Fix Your Street, etc. 	Completed and Ongoing

17 SRM	Incorporate Climate Action in the Library Development Plan 2025 - 2029	Library Service	2026	The planning stage of the Wicklow Library Development Plan will commence in February 2025. Wicklow County Library Service will liaise and collaborate with Wicklow Climate Action team and other relevant stakeholders in regard to ensuring Wicklow County Library Service plays a key role in fostering environmental responsibility within the community. These actions will be key components of the upcoming Library Development Strategy 2026-2029.	In Progress
18 SRM	Review existing work practices and offices in order to promote climate change measures. Review the existing IT systems in order to reduce paper usage.	ECS (Information Systems), Environment (Climate Change Team)	2024-2029	Information on alternatives to the use of Glyphosate issued to Municipal Districts. A SuDS guidance document has been developed for reference by the districts.	Completed and Ongoing
19 SRM	Develop and implement waste prevention fund initiatives.	Environment (EAO)	2024 - 2029	Relove Fashion, Rubbish Film Festival, Brown bin caddy campaign at Tinahely Show, PPN roadshow events and Bray Area Partnership Climate Action event, Waste minimisation award	Completed and Ongoing
20 SRM	Upgrading of council-owned buildings to include for Nature-Based SuDS and water demand. Ensure all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects.	Housing, Municipal Districts	2024-2029	The Council are looking at the possibility of NB SuDS options for Clermont House and County Buildings.	Not Started



Appendix A: Wicklow County Council Action Implementation Data for KPI 2024 Return

Theme:	Action No.	Action Text	Type	Action Started In		Action To Be Completed By:		Recurring	Status:
Governance & Leadership	1 GL	Place Climate Action as a standing item on the agenda for Senior Management Team meetings with an annual Climate Action Summary Report produced.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Governance & Leadership	2 GL	Maintain a Climate and Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to ensure development of policy. All other SPCs to ensure climate resilience are incorporated into policy development. Place Climate Action Policy as a Standing Item on Corporate Policy Group meetings.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Governance & Leadership	3 GL	Establish a Climate Action Committee with representation at Senior Executive level (Grade 8's or equivalent) from each service to manage deliver and budgeting of Climate Action Plan including green procurement where relevant.	Combined	Q3	2024	Q4	2024	Yes	In Progress
Governance & Leadership	4 GL	Provide training and policy guidance for staff and elected representatives on Climate Action ensuring that all are aware of policy and its implications for delivery of services across the organisation. Include guidance for induction of new staff.	Combined			Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Governance & Leadership	5 GL	Maintain a Climate Action Team, to support delivery of climate and biodiversity action, which will include the minimum of a Climate Action Co-Ordinator, Climate Action Officer, Community Climate Action Officer, Environmental Awareness Officer, Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer, Biodiversity Officer, Heritage Officer and Energy Officer with administrative support	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Governance & Leadership	6 GL	Maintain a cross departmental Green Team to deliver climate actions, improved resource efficiency, engagement of staff on energy efficiency and active travel	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Governance & Leadership	7 GL	Liaise, collaborate and work in partnership with the Eastern & Midlands CARO and members of the Mid-East sub-region in the delivery of climate actions.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Governance & Leadership	8 GL	Meet with the Municipal Districts to support delivery of climate action at local level, meeting staff three times a year and elected representatives once a year.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Governance & Leadership	9 GL	Communicate the local impacts of climate change and communicate the opportunities for Climate Action through media platforms.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Governance & Leadership	10 GL	Screen Local Area Plans and future Development Plans for climate resilience ensuring they consider compact development, biodiversity resilience, active travel, sustainable economic development, consider associated climate action co-benefits and environmental protection requirements.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Governance & Leadership	11 GL	<p>Lead the energy unit for the region including Wicklow, Kildare, and Meath Local Authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share experience on energy management • develop Pathfinder and other projects to improve the energy performance of local authority buildings , having appropriate regard to protected structure conservation requirements. 	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Governance & Leadership	12 GL	<p>Accreditation to the International Standard for Energy Management ISO 50001 by 2024 to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual plan • register of opportunities • 3-year cycle • energy review <p>Including monitoring and reporting to SEAL.</p>	Mitigation	Q3	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
Governance & Leadership	13 GL	Display Energy Certificates for WCC's public buildings including the Swimming Pools, Municipal District Offices, Libraries and County Buildings.	Mitigation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
Governance & Leadership	14 GL	Promote the development and uptake of remote/ blended working policies in line with the National Remote Work Strategy through Climate Action and other communication strategies, wherever these can reduce car journeys.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Built Environment & Transport	1 BET	<p>Prioritise decarbonisation of significant energy usage buildings within the Local Authority whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Leisure Centres • County Buildings • Bray Fire Station 	Mitigation	Q3	2024	Q4	2026	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	2 BET	Investigate and undertake a pilot to incorporate reuse of material or systems into a housing development, lowering life-cycle carbon emissions.	Mitigation			Q4	2029	No	Not Started
Built Environment & Transport	3 BET	Use low carbon construction methods, materials and low carbon cement as far as practicable for construction projects. Whole life-cycle analysis should be considered in all projects.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	4 BET	Phase out installation of heating systems that use fossil fuels in any new dwellings or buildings constructed or major renovation retrofit projects by 2025, 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, during any retrofitting works.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2025	No	In Progress

Built Environment & Transport	5 BET	Implement and promote the National Retrofitting Housing Programme for Wicklow housing stock, achieving a BER of B2 or cost optimal level equivalent. A minimum of 700 housing units to be refurbished. Provide a minimum of 750 newly constructed housing units to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or in compliance with relevant guidelines within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan 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, during any retrofitting works.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	6 BET	Develop a pilot to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures - using exemplar retrofitting projects, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species that may be present in such buildings and European sites.	Mitigation			Q4	2028	Yes	Not Started
Built Environment & Transport	7 BET	Complete the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme following guidance in the Public Lighting Retrofitting Guidance Document and reviewing the existing public lighting levels including the use of lower colour temperature in National Park areas and areas with recorded bat populations. Having due regard for the impact the	Mitigation	Q3	2024	Q4	2028	No	In Progress

		spectrum of light used will have on protected nocturnal species such as bats.							
Built Environment & Transport	8 BET	Develop and implement an EV charging strategy that ensures geographic spread and access in areas without opportunity for homeowners to charge on their own properties, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, and local air quality.	Mitigation	Q3	2024	Q4	2028	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	9 BET	Install EV charge points within local authority housing developments, in compliance with the Development Plan, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, and local air quality.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	10 BET	Deliver the development of a high quality cycling and pedestrian network through Active Travel measures in urban areas and connecting communities. Ensure supported active travel development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Built Environment & Transport	11 BET	Promote and support participation of schools in Safer Routes to School, ensuring any ancillary development has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	12 BET	Strengthen towns and villages through enhancement of green infrastructure measures and/or sustainable transport linkages, having due regards for environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	13 BET	Complete Local Area Transport Studies for Greystones and Arklow and progress plans for other communities whilst ensuring such plans have due regard to opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits and planning and environmental protection considerations.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q2	2029	No	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	14 BET	Facilitate the planning and delivery of the Bus Connects and Bus Service Corridors to facilitate modal transfer to bus services on the N11 including the N11 Bus Corridor and the Park and Ride Infrastructure Strategy for facilities at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fassaroe, • Ashford / Rathnew • Kilpedder 	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2025	No	In Progress

Built Environment & Transport	15 BET	Facilitate the planning and delivery of the Dart Plus Scheme, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure the scheme and any associated development and activities promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2027	No	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	16 BET	Facilitate the planning and delivery of the LUAS Bray Scheme, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure the scheme and any associated development and activities promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Combined			Q4	2029+	No	Not Started
Built Environment & Transport	17 BET	Assist the development of shared mobility services by increasing the number of bike facilities, e-bike schemes and shared mobility parking areas.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	18 BET	Implement measures to increase modal shift from private cars by visitors to the county to using public transport; looped tourism bus services; E-mobility infrastructure; regulation of parking; Glendalough Master Plan. Ensure supported development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.	Combined			Q4	2029	No	Not Started

Built Environment & Transport	19 BET	Complete an inventory of the existing council fleet and develop a fleet management policy achieving a target of 51% reduction in emissions, which includes the procurement of the fleet and an objective for decarbonising existing fleet. 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	Q1	2024	Q4	2024	No	Completed
Built Environment & Transport	20 BET	<p>Fleet Management:</p> <p>Implement a transport energy management system including a fuel management system into the council fleet.</p> <p>Procure only zero emission veh., unless the vehicle is exempt under EC Regs SI381 of 2021, whilst ensuring appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for zero emission vehicles.</p> <p>Investigate options to convert the existing council fleet to a low carbon fuel source where feasible such as Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO), whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced</p>	Mitigation			Q4	2029+	Yes	Not Started
Built Environment & Transport	21 BET	Incorporate the use of more sustainable methods of delivering road improvements, cycle paths and footpaths (e.g. the use of RAP, road recycling methods, micro-surfacing	Mitigation	Q3	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

		into the annual roads programme).							
Built Environment & Transport	22 BET	<p>Standardise the management of drainage systems within the council including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the regular maintenance of regional and local road drainage systems, having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology. • the recording and mapping of areas impacted by weather events (Climate Change events) including the implementation of technology such as the Weather Impact Register (WIRE) App to capture impacts, response and costs (including ecosystem services/natural capital costs) • mapping the location of attenuation tanks and drainage systems on Arc GIS 	Adaptation			Q4	2029+	Yes	Not Started
Built Environment & Transport	23 BET	Deliver climate adaptation works on infrastructure through the Climate Change Adaption & Resilience Works and drainage funding programmes, having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.	Adaptation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Built Environment & Transport	24 BET	Develop a mobility plan to reduce emissions from travel by staff including promoting the Cycle to Work Scheme; shared mobility options including a Smart Mobility Hub at the county buildings including E-bikes, an EV pool car, and training for staff on the operation of same.	Combined			Q4	2029	Yes	Not Started
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	1 NEGI	Engage with neighbouring local authorities and other relevant organisations (including Irish Rail) on coastal erosion, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported coastal erosion works and development promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	2 NEGI	Update flood event emergency response plans including supporting the development of a flood forecasting and warning system. Ensure to incorporate Climate resilience.	Adaptation			Q4	2029	Yes	Not Started

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	3 NEGI	<p>Ensure all relevant legislation and regulation on climate change and flood management is integrated into council policies and guidelines, including the promoting of natural flood measures.</p> <p>Undertake Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of all Local Area Plans and Development Plans.</p> <p>Implement the OPW Flood Risk Management Guidelines and best practices to ensure that all developments consider climate resilience and demonstrate that they integrate Nature-Based SuDS and Nature-Based Solutions to address surface water management. Ensure due regard is given to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.</p>	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	4 NEGI	Seek a buffer of generally 25-metre along watercourses as riparian zones for urban areas in line with the Inland Fisheries Ireland publication 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' and the Wicklow County Development Plan.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	5 NEGI	Develop and implement an integrated SuDS policy to guide planning, installation, monitoring and maintenance to improve storm-water management. Provide training on SuDS implementation to key staff, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029	No	In Progress

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	6 NEGI	Develop demonstration sites highlighting Nature-Based SuDS providing flood attenuation systems within existing urban areas, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	7 NEGI	Support and facilitate LAWPRO projects improving water quality within the county catchments. Example scheme: Avonmore Waters of Life Project, having due regard to the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.	Adaptation	Q2	2024	Q4	2027	No	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	8 NEGI	<p>Prioritise the use of nature-based SuDS on local authority schemes within the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roads - ensure drainage works are considered at the preliminary design stage of project development for all road and infrastructure projects 2. Housing - integrate nature-based SuDS techniques from the initial preliminary design stage to project completion. Additionally utilise water demand technologies into all housing capital projects. <p>Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality.</p>	Adaptation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	9 NEGI	<p>Deliver the following Flood Relief Schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arklow Flood Relief Scheme • Avoca Flood Relief Scheme • Baltinglass Flood Relief Scheme <p>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.</p>	Adaptation	Q2	2024	Q4	2028	No	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	10 NEGI	<p>Work with the OPW in order to review and progress more detailed studies on schemes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessington Flood Relief Scheme • Greystones & Environs Flood Relief Scheme • Wicklow & Ashford Flood Relief Scheme • facilitate the hydraulic modelling of the Bray Flood Relief Scheme • facilitate the OPW to conduct a review of the PFRA with regard to flood risk arising from floods on surface water infrastructure such as culverts. <p>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.</p>	Adaptation			Q4	2029	No	Not Started

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	11 NEGI	Incorporate Nature-Based measures for coastal erosion in order to support the conservation and management of sand dunes at Brittas Bay, having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value.	Mitigation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029	No	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	12 NEGI	Undertake an audit of council owned land for suitability for micro-woodlands/biodiversity by end-2025 and to set targets for planting/management with suitable vegetation. Incorporate three pilot woodlands on public lands schemes in Bray, Wicklow & Grangecon.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q4	2025	No	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	13 NEGI	Promote the implementation of best practice pollinator friendly and Green Infrastructure guidance for managing greenspace by Municipal Districts to include: mowing regimes, hedgerow, tree care weed & riparian zones management. These standards shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard of the need to appropriately manage these habitats.	Combined	Q3	2024	Q4	2027	No	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	14 NEGI	Implement the Glyphosate policy within the MD's, developing an integrated approach, working with other LAs to establish best practice, identifying and trialling best alternative practices.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q4	2029	No	In Progress

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	15 NEGI	Review and update the Wicklow Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of the built, natural and cultural heritage, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.	Adaptation	Q1	2024	Q4	2024	No	Completed
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	16 NEGI	Undertake a climate risk assessment of LA owned heritage assets (natural and built), following guidance to come from DHLGH for LAs on methodology, identifying priority areas for action, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.	Adaptation			Q4	2029	No	Not Started
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	17 NEGI	Review and update the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including climate-relevant measures having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2025	Yes	In Progress

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	18 NEGI	Implement pollinator conservation initiatives on public realm sites, creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitats based on most up-to-date scientific advice from All Ireland Pollinator Plan, ensuring sites and actions are mapped with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	19 NEGI	Review the Tree Management Policy and support its implementation.	Combined			Q4	2025	No	Not Started
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	20 NEGI	Develop a hedgerow plan for the county with actions to map, protect and develop hedgerows, having due regard to hedgerow area conservation requirements and the need to avoid habitat fragmentation.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q4	2026	No	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	21 NEGI	Develop an integrated programme to address invasive alien species through education and with recording and eradication programmes in the public realm. This programme shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage and prevent the spread of invasive species.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	22 NEGI	Liaise with CCMA and ETBs to devise and deliver accredited biodiversity training for local authority staff on biodiversity, with a module on climate links. Material created at regional / national level, delivered locally in each LA.	Combined			Q4	2029	No	Not Started

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	23 NEGI	Pilot a biodiversity-inclusive design for a social housing estate considering the following elements within the design: green roofs, green walls, wetland, pond, Nature-Based SuDS, green car parking, nest boxes in facades, grasslands, wildlife friendly shrubs and trees in open space, , ensuring development have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.	Combined			Q4	2028	No	Not Started
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	24 NEGI	Assist local community stakeholders engaging in peatland rewetting, woodland creation and nature restoration to access funding to undertake projects in upland areas, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects are designed and implemented in a manner that accords with relevant environmental protection requirements.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	25 NEGI	Host an annual uplands forum to develop an integrated partnership with key stakeholders to develop carbon sequestration, catchment management and tackle recreational pressures on upland sites delivering protection of habitat.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	26 NEGI	Develop a hill and forest fire management response and prevention strategy, including protocols for responding to fires, enforcement, awareness campaigns of the impact of fires and systems to measure the extent and economic costs of fires having appropriate regard to the need to support the achievement of conservation objectives and protect and enhance important habitats or the qualifying interests of any protected sites.	Adaptation			Q4	2027	No	Not Started
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	27 NEGI	Work with stakeholders to delineate and establish a Dark Sky Reserve for County Wicklow. Undertaking a light assessment of Laragh and Roundwood to explore opportunities to reduce light pollution.	Adaptation			Q4	2027	No	Not Started
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	28 NEGI	Map green infrastructure for the five largest towns to develop an integrated approach, implementing objectives in the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q4	2029	No	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	29 NEGI	Build climate resilience of architectural and archaeological heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as the BHIS, HSF, HTI, IWTN and the Community Monument Fund, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.	Adaptation	Q3	2024	Q4	2029	No	In Progress

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	30 NEGI	Support engagement of stakeholders on initiatives that assist in the control and management of deer.	Mitigation	Q3	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	1 CRT	Administer the funding to local community groups for climate action through the Community Climate Action Fund ensuring a diversity of themes covered. Include sustainability and climate change scoring on relevant grant assessments to ensure that community groups/stakeholders consider climate action in all their grant funded activities	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	2 CRT	Liaise with renewable energy developers on the Community Benefit Fund to ensure a climate focus in funding to communities. Learnings from the Ballinagran community fund.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	3 CRT	Deliver capacity building and training for local communities to develop leadership on climate action and biodiversity action annually.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	4 CRT	Quarterly communications to PPN on climate action to be disseminated through their newsletter. And communications through social media and the council website.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	5 CRT	Develop a 'Green Events Policy' for events and filming on location to ensure best practice on site.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2025	No	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	6 CRT	Develop an annual 'Climate Action Week' with a range of educational events throughout the county delivered by a range	Combined	Q2	2024	Q3	2029	Yes	In Progress

		of participants.							
Communities: Resilience & Transition	7 CRT	Recognise the work being done in the county by all sectors in the community on local climate action initiatives and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals targets through the annual 'Sustainable Development Awards'.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q3	2029	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	8 CRT	Support citizen science projects and third level research to target climate sensitive species through collaboration, training and provision of equipment through libraries.	Combined			Q4	2029	Yes	Not Started
Communities: Resilience & Transition	9 CRT	Promote Green Schools and Heritage in schools. Programmes to encourage active engagement on climate and biodiversity with a focus on TY students.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	10 CRT	Support the work of SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) in County Wicklow, assisting them to network, access funding and promote their events and projects.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	11 CRT	Support community groups in their efforts to develop communal gardens and allotments.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2026	No	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	12 CRT	Promote tree planting by providing: • an annual tree planting grant for communities and schools • trees to communities during National Tree Week	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Communities: Resilience & Transition	13 CRT	Incorporate climate action into all plans under the following: • Rural Development Fund • Urban Regeneration and Development Fund • Town and Village Renewal Scheme • CLÁR Scheme Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European Sites and biodiversity related sensitivities, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately protected and conserve cultural heritage features.	Combined			Q4	2025	No	Not Started
Communities: Resilience & Transition	14 CRT	Develop sustainability in the arts with Creative Climate Action funding.	Combined			Q4	2029+	Yes	Not Started
Communities: Resilience & Transition	15 CRT	Promote the awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation projects within the public realm, e.g. landscaping designs, roundabouts and murals.	Combined			Q4	2029+	Yes	Not Started
Communities: Resilience & Transition	16 CRT	Guided by the memorandum of Understanding signed by the GAA and CCMA, Engage with the Green Club Programme working with the CARO and GAA, in the promotion and support of projects.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	17 CRT	Promote the Home Energy Savings Kit scheme in WCC libraries, including training for staff.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	18 CRT	Engage with the Age Friendly Team on events for active retirement and associated groups to provide information on best approaches to	Mitigation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

		maintaining warmer homes and energy efficiency in the home.							
Communities: Resilience & Transition	19 CRT	Provide energy awareness talks and waste prevention workshops for local authority estates and new tenant induction courses.	Combined			Q4	2029+	Yes	Not Started
Communities: Resilience & Transition	20 CRT	Assess town regeneration plans for impact on mobility ensuring an approach that is age friendly and appropriate for all with mobility impairment.	Mitigation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	21 CRT	Provide accessible bus stops on new and existing routes.	Mitigation			Q4	2029+	Yes	Not Started
Communities: Resilience & Transition	22 CRT	Assess five existing large local authority housing schemes for public transport links and active travel access, whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and water and air quality.	Mitigation			Q4	2027	No	Not Started
Communities: Resilience & Transition	23 CRT	Work with the Healthy Food Made Easy Programme and Community Food Initiative.	Combined		2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	24 CRT	Provide workshops for children and young people to facilitate their input on climate change and biodiversity.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	1 SRM	Conduct a review of the civic amenity sites including: energy use, water demand, current layout, drainage and services.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	2 SRM	An awareness campaign in civic amenity sites on the life cycles of waste, exploring different options on the waste hierarchy.	Combined		2025	Q4	2027	Yes	Not Started

Sustainable Resource Management	3 SRM	Implement a wider roll out of segregated brown bin collection systems and support the implementation of the National Waste Management Plan, whilst ensuring all supported initiatives accord with provision Waste Management Act and do not lead to adverse environmental impacts or nuisance.	Mitigation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	4 SRM	Support SME's through the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green for Micro programme • Climate Toolkit for businesses • Green Start programme with Enterprise Ireland • Climate Ready Training with Skillnet Ireland • Energy Efficiency grant. 	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	5 SRM	Promote uptake of energy performance measures in business and agricultural sectors through the promotion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAI programmes and Energy Audits • support scheme for renewable heat • micro and small-scale renewable energy generation • anaerobic digestion • energy efficient and heating control technology. Whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported renewable energy development does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Mitigation	Q3	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	6 SRM	Develop a skills strategy for the county which includes training for emerging skill shortages such as renewables, energy efficiency, green	Mitigation	Q2	2024	Q4	2025	No	In Progress

		technologies and also review the role of the Wicklow County Campus.							
Sustainable Resource Management	7 SRM	Develop a renewables hub at the Wicklow Campus in Clermont to support development of the sector in County Wicklow, while ensuring that the businesses and projects supported accord with relevant planning and environmental protection criteria.	Mitigation			Q4	2029+	No	Not Started
Sustainable Resource Management	8 SRM	Develop remote working hubs in existing enterprise centres and support the development of working hubs in other strategic locations where space permits.	Mitigation		2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	9 SRM	<p>Identify and implement Rural Development Fund initiatives that deliver on a transition towards a climate-neutral rural economy to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rural transport, • working hubs, • town and village regeneration • nature-based solutions • digital initiatives • green economy • bio-economy <p>Having appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection requirements, environmental sensitivities such as European Sites, biodiversity and opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits and interconnectivity.</p>	Combined		2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Sustainable Resource Management	10 SRM	Promote sustainability in the tourism, food and the hospitality sector.	Mitigation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	11 SRM	Facilitate development of local markets for food producers in the county encouraging sustainable practice in the sector.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	12 SRM	Liaise with Signpost, ACRES, TAMS and Farming for Nature Schemes to support climate action in the agricultural sector. Help to promote farms to become demonstration farms and highlight the work being done in Wicklow to decarbonize agriculture and manage land using best practice for sustainability, development planning and environmental protection and enhancement.	Combined	Q3	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	13 SRM	Promote the use of Green Public Procurement within the council.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	14 SRM	Examine the potential of the former landfill sites of Ballymurtagh (Avoca) and Rampere (Baltinglass) for the development of green energy. Having due regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.	Mitigation			Q1	2029	No	Not Started
Sustainable Resource Management	15 SRM	Monitor and enforce relevant environmental protection laws including applying the 'polluter pays' principal (particularly in relation to C&D and commercial waste).	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Sustainable Resource Management	16 SRM	Implement and further utilise Local Government Management Association shared services such as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environment Management Information System (NEMIS) in recording statistics on environmental activity • Road Management Office systems • E-Planning • Building Control Management System • National Library Management System • Fix Your Street, etc. 	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	17 SRM	Incorporate Climate Action in the Library Development Plan 2025 - 2029	Combined			Q2	2026	Yes	Not Started
Sustainable Resource Management	18 SRM	Review existing work practices and offices in order to promote climate change measures. Review the existing IT systems in order to reduce paper usage.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	19 SRM	Develop and implement waste prevention fund initiatives.	Mitigation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
Sustainable Resource Management	20 SRM	Upgrading of council-owned buildings to include for Nature-Based SuDS and water demand. Ensure all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress



Appendix B: Arklow Decarbonising Zone Action Implementation Data for KPI 2024 Return

Theme:	Action No.	Action Text	Type	Action Started In		Action To Be Completed By:		Recurring	Status:
Governance & Leadership	ADZ G&L 1	The Local Area Plan will take account the Arklow Decarbonising Zone implementation plan and actions of the Climate Action Plan.	Combined	Q3	2025	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Governance & Leadership	ADZ G&L 2	Create an Arklow Decarbonisation Forum to engage key stakeholders in development and delivery of decarbonisation.	Combined	Q3	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	Completed
Built Environment & Transport	ADZ BE&T 3	Complete a Local Transport Study taking the following into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the '10 Minute Town' concept • active travel • permeability • public transport requirements • shared services • mobility hub • active travel bridges Ensure any required development is planned in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q3	2026	No	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	ADZ BE&T 4	Investigate opportunities for a shared travel scheme.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q2	2025	No	In Progress

Built Environment & Transport	ADZ BE&T 5	Implement the Retrofitting Housing Programme for existing housing stock achieving a BER of B2 or cost optimal level equivalent. Provide newly constructed housing units to an A2 BER rating or in compliance with relevant guidelines within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan. Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity. Create awareness of works undertaken and their benefits to encourage retrofitting in private housing stock.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	ADZ BE&T 6	Undertake a retrofit of the Coral Leisure Centre pool and sports hall investigating the feasibility for renewable water heating, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity.	Mitigation	Q4	2024	Q4	2029	No	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	ADZ BE&T 7	Undertake a retrofit of the civic amenity site and install solar PV panels under the small scale generation scheme, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites, biodiversity, the need to control and mitigate potential glint and glare impacts.	Mitigation	Q3	2024	Q4	2024	No	Completed
Built Environment & Transport	ADZ BE&T 8	Investigate district heating opportunities from the planned data centre; ensuring appropriate regard is had to planning and environmental protection considerations.	Mitigation	Q4	2024	Q4	2025	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment	ADZ BE&T	Within the Arklow Municipal District increase the number of EVs and convert the existing	Mitigation				2029+	Yes	Not Started

& Transport	9	fleet to a low carbon fuel source, 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 and ensuring any ancillary development have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity.							
Built Environment & Transport	ADZ BE&T 10	Support the work of Arklow SEC to engage owners of buildings in retrofitting projects.	Adaptation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Built Environment & Transport	ADZ BE&T 11	Develop a pilot to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures, 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 that may be present in such buildings and European sites.	Mitigation			Q4	2029	No	Not Started
Built Environment & Transport	ADZ BE&T 12	Increase the number of schools involved in Safer Routes to Schools, ensuring any ancillary development have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q3	2029	Yes	In Progress

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	ADZ NE&GI 13	Implement the Wicklow SuDS Policy, Tree Management Policy and Landscaping Development Guidelines to promote biodiversity gain.	Combined	Q2	2025	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	ADZ NE&GI 14	Conduct a tree survey in the public realm.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q3	2026	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	ADZ NE&GI 15	Map and identify green infrastructure opportunities in the town to support the development of NB-SuDS improving climate resilience, while ensuring projects have due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q3	2029	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	ADZ NE&GI 16	Promote rainwater harvesting, green roofs, green walls and water demand reducing projects, while ensuring projects have appropriate regard to local environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity European sites and cultural heritage considerations.	Combined	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	ADZ NE&GI 17	Undertake a pilot with the Native Oyster Reef Restoration Ireland project to test the re-establishment of oyster beds and kelp restoration on a demonstration scale.	Combined	Q3	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	ADZ CR&T 18	Develop annual communication plans with targeted campaigns to engage the community in climate action.	Combined	Q3	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress

Communities: Resilience & Transition	ADZ CR&T 19	Engage with community groups to identify projects that can be funded under the Community Climate Action Fund.	Combined	Q2	2024	Q4	2029	Yes	In Progress
Communities: Resilience & Transition	ADZ CR&T 20	Promote greater uptake of solar PV in the town through promoting the micro-generation and the small scale generation scheme, where it is confirmed through a glint and glare assessment that any solar development will not have any potential glint and glare impact on sensitive receptors, or otherwise, where it is confirmed that any solar development constitutes exempted development under the Planning and Development Regulations by virtue of its size or location outside a Solar Safeguarding Zone.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	ADZ S&RM 21	Promote development of the circular economy including waste minimisation, repair, reuse, upcycling and sharing through the Arklow amenity site and the Arklow Library, highlighting the role of social enterprises locally, ensuring supported development and activities accord with the Waste Management Act, as necessary, and do not cause negative environmental effects or nuisance.	Mitigation	Q1	2024	Q4	2029+	Yes	In Progress
Sustainable Resource Management	ADZ S&RM 22	Investigate opportunity for carbon storage or hydrogen production from renewable electricity generated, having appropriate regard to planning and environmental constraints and considerations, having appropriate regard to planning and environmental constraints and	Mitigation	Q2	2024	Q4	2029	Yes	In Progress

		considerations.							
Sustainable Resource Management	ADZ S&RM 23	<p>Investigate opportunity to develop a micro/small scale pilot anaerobic digestion in Arklow, identifying potential feed stock whilst ensuring:</p> <p>1. Appropriate regard is given to planning and environmental protection constraints and considerations during any future the development planning process;</p> <p>2. Such potential development does not cause unintended, significant, negative environmental effects in the area; and,</p> <p>3. Such a potential facility operates in accordance with the provisions of the Waste Management Act.</p>	Mitigation	Q3	2024	Q4	2029	Yes	In Progress