

**Multi Annual Work Plan for Climate Action,  
Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine,  
Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy  
Committee**

## Multi Annual Work Plan for Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee

Revision Number	Date	Note
Rev 1.0	28/04/2026	Sent to CABEEMRA SPC members in advance of special meeting on 7 <sup>th</sup> May seeking approval.
Rev 1.1	07/05/2026	After approval by SPC, updated casual trading bye laws entry with information from Staff Officer in Environment, included policies as per MCahill and updated wording of policies to 'TBC'. This version then sent to Helen Purcell as iteration to go in front of CPG meeting.

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<b>Policy</b>	<b>Proposed Actions</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Responsible / Lead</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Climate</b>					
<b>Climate Action Plan</b>	<p>- The overarching goal is to transition to a climate resilient, biodiverse, sustainable, and carbon-neutral County by 2050. Our plan aligns with the national climate objective, which targets a climate-neutral economy by 2050.</p> <p>- 135 actions in total, 23 of which relate to Arklow, the designated Decarbonisation Zone for Co Wicklow</p>	<p>- The plan builds on Wicklow County Council's commitment to the Local Authority Climate Charter, pledging to achieve a 51% reduction in carbon emissions and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030</p>	2024-2029	<p>-Wicklow County Councils Climate Action Team -Partnership with communities, enterprise &amp; other stakeholders at local and regional level</p>	<p>-2024 Implementation Report for Elected Members and Stakeholders was published in June 2025 and offers 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</p>
<b>Tree Management Policy</b>	<p>- The Tree Management Policy has been produced to provide better understanding of our tree resources in County Wicklow and the role Wicklow County Council plays in managing and</p>	<p>- The aim of the policy is to provide a better approach to care and maintenance of trees under public ownership, to increase tree cover in the county and to engage public participation in caring for our trees.</p>	<p>2022 – ongoing  5-year action plan contained in the plan</p>	<p>-Currently Wicklow County Council Climate Action Team but it is hoped that a Parks Department can be created to</p>	<p>-Currently being discussed by SPC</p>

	<p>developing these resources.</p> <p>- Contains a 5-year action plan, broken into 6 overarching Goals, containing a total of 41 actions</p>	<p>- The implementation of the actions contained within this Tree Management Strategy will enable us to sustain existing tree populations in County Wicklow and build numbers, so that we can pass forward to the next generation our rich arborol heritage in a healthier and more robust condition</p>		<p>oversee the implementation of the plan</p> <p>-Actions fall under remit of various bodies, for example, WCC GIS team, Municipal Districts, Arborists, Biodiversity Officer IT Section, PPN</p>	
<b>Glyphosate Policy</b>	<p>-Wicklow County Council recognises the need to reduce, replace and always where possible eliminate the use of Glyphosate due to its potential risk to the environment and human health.</p> <p>-6 actions included in the Policy</p>	<p>-Retain semi natural areas of vegetation to protect pollinators and wildlife.</p> <p>-Manage vegetation through mechanical methods</p> <p>-Use alternative glyphosate and chemical free</p>	2022– ongoing	<p>-Wicklow County Council Climate Action Team</p> <p>-Municipal Districts</p> <p>-Users to be registered as Professional User with Department of</p>	<p>-Wicklow County Council is part of a Service Level Agreement with Kildare County Council for the Scientific Assessment of alternatives to herbicide use in the maintenance of amenity public open spaces projects</p>

		<p>products and equipment</p> <p>-Business case required if use of Glyphosate is needed as last resort</p>		Agriculture, Food and the Marine	
<b>Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Policy</b>	<p>-The purpose of this document is to provide a brief introduction to SuDS, guidance on the various standards, the Council's planning requirements and the various types of SuDS components. The document provides stormwater management design guidance and information on the standards required by development proposals in order to implement SuDS.</p>	<p>-Sustainable Urban Development Systems, when implemented in line with this policy, will reduce flood risk and can mitigate against the pollution of water bodies, elevated temperatures and damage to the overall environment including biodiversity loss.</p>	2025 – ongoing	<p>-Climate Action Coordinator</p> <p>-Environment Section within CERA</p> <p>-Planning Directorate</p> <p>-Municipal Districts</p>	
<b>Biodiversity Action Plan</b>	<p>-Protect, restore and strengthen the resilience of our ecological network through evidence based,</p>	<p>-Halt Biodiversity loss in Co Wicklow by 2030, in line with EU &amp; National Policy.</p>	2026-2031	<p>-Biodiversity Officer</p> <p>-Biodiversity Steering Group</p>	

	<p>collaborative and impactful action.</p> <p>- 5 objectives, containing a total of 50 actions</p>			<p>-Internal stakeholders, for example, CERA Directorate, Heritage Officer, Planning, Community and Infrastructure sections</p> <p>-Various external stakeholders including the Heritage Council and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund.</p>	
<b>Litter Management Plan</b>	<p>-The plan aims to deliver on the mission statement of Wicklow County Council's Corporate Plan to "actively protect the planet, promoting wellbeing and quality of life for all people, and make Wicklow the best place to live, work, visit and grow older.</p>	<p>-Enforcement &amp; Regulation- To enforce the legislation to its fullest extent in order to prevent and control litter and illegal dumping.</p> <p>-Litter Prevention &amp; Control -To deliver an integrated approach to the prevention and</p>	2026-2029	<p>-Waste Management &amp; Enforcement</p> <p>-Municipal Districts</p> <p>-Environmental Awareness Officer</p>	

	<p>-This plan sets out measures to prevent and control litter, ensure enforcement of litter legislation and measures to encourage public engagement with the issue of litter.</p> <p>- 46 actions under 4 key objectives</p>	<p>management of litter, protecting the environment with reduced levels of dumping.</p> <p>-Education &amp; Awareness - To promote a litter prevention and control message that fosters responsible citizenship in the protection of the environment.</p> <p>-Community Engagement - To empower local groups to take part in the control and prevention of litter within their own community.</p>		<p>-Housing Directorate</p> <p>-PURE</p>	
<b>WCC Energy Policy</b>	<p>-Efficiently manage and reduce consumption of energy while providing services to the citizens of Wicklow, while keeping in</p>	<p>- Reduction of Energy Consumption and pollutant emissions</p> <p>- review and track operations from</p>	2023-ongoing	-Wicklow County Council Energy Team	

	mind targets to be achieved at a national and EU level	<p>framework of energy performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Improve energy performance and management</li> <li>-ensure compliance with all relevant legislation</li> <li>-support procurement of energy efficiency products and services</li> <li>-incorporating energy efficient and sustainable designs</li> <li>-promotion of energy awareness among staff</li> </ul>			
<b>Green Events Policy</b>	-A policy to provide guidance to staff and event organisers to promote sustainable practice in the planning and operation of events.	-A clearer understanding of what is required for event organisers and of what options they have to increase sustainable	Policy is drafted and has been circulated to the Wicklow Tourism office for comment. Need to circulate it to the Arts office	Climate Action Officer	

		practice in their events.	and Community section. Plan should also be considered by the SPC.		
<b>Invasive Alien Species Plan/Policy</b>	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Landscape Development Plan/Policy</b>	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Pollinator Friendly &amp; Green Infrastructure Plan/Policy</b>	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

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<b>Environment</b>					
<b>Waste Bye Laws</b>	Management of household and commercial waste to promote better segregation, increase recycling rates, and reduce illegal dumping	improved waste segregation, cleaner public areas and controlling environmental nuisance	2018 – currently under review, expected timeframe for completion December 2026	-Robert Kelly, Executive Scientist, Waste Management Section  -Eoin Kelly, Administrative Officer, Waste Management Section	Presentation made to SPC in July 2025 which outlined review will aim to increase fine from €25 to €75, include some minor technical changes to text, improve presentation of waste on bin day, reduce litter and increase recycling rates.
<b>Casual Trading Bye Laws</b>	Continue managing casual trading licences and designated trading areas under the WCC Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2012 and begin a review of the current bye-laws to consider footfall, community need, flexibility of designated pitches and emerging trading trends.	Ensure that casual trading in Wicklow is fairly regulated, while working towards updated bye-laws that better reflect current trading activities and demands.	Any changes to bye-laws will require public consultation and approval by elected members.	Env – CERA.	Presentation given to CABEEMRA SPC in September 2025 on the current casual trading framework and the potential future review of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws.

<b>Maritime Strategy</b>	To be discussed	TBC	2026	TBC	TBC
<b>Wicklow and Arklow Harbour Bye-Laws</b>	Review existing Bye-Laws. This process was commenced in 2025 but the draft Bye-Laws need additional work due to outcomes of meetings with MARA.	Bye-Laws to provide a consistency in the operation of Wicklow and Arklow Harbours in line with the Maritime Area Planning Act.	2026	TBC	TBC
<b>Beach Bye-Laws</b>	Review of existing Bye-Laws required	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Water Action Plan</b>	The Water Action Plan for a LA is how the LA will meet their obligations under the 2022-2027 River Basin Management Plan (RBMPs are now called Water Action Plans). The Plan will outline how WCC will improve, and reduce the decline of, water quality on a catchment basis.	TBC	TBC	Tom Griffin, Jonathan Sexton	Support being provided by LawPro in the development of the WAPs. LawPro have provided a template for the WAP and a reporting workbook. This will maintain a consistency across all catchments nationally.

<b>Recreation</b>					
<b>Wicklow County Outdoor Recreation Plan</b>	<p>Delivering a coordinated, sustainable and inclusive approach to outdoor recreation across the county. It will prioritise strengthening leadership and partnerships, secure resources and staffing, and improving planning and governance structures. Key actions also aim to protect the natural environment and heritage, enhance and maintain existing infrastructure such as trails, expand and diversify participation opportunities, particularly for underrepresented groups, and improve access for all users. The plan also emphasises increasing awareness, promoting responsible use of the outdoors, and building the skills and capacity of stakeholders to ensure</p>	<p>The expected outcomes of the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025–2030 centre on creating a more accessible, inclusive and sustainable outdoor recreation environment across the county. It aims to increase participation among all population groups, particularly those currently underrepresented. The plan also seeks to protect and enhance Wicklow’s natural landscapes through responsible use and management, alongside upgrading and expanding high-quality infrastructure. Strong collaboration between stakeholders</p>	2025-2030	Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee	

	long-term, sustainable delivery.	is expected to lead to more coordinated delivery and long-term investment, while increased awareness and education will support safer, more sustainable engagement with outdoor spaces.			
<b>Wicklow County Council Sports Action Plan</b>	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Play Policy</b>	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

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<b>Amenity</b>					
<b>Wicklow County Council Libraries Development Plan</b>	To be discussed on June 5 <sup>TH</sup> 2026 SPC Meeting	TBC	2026-	Margaret Birchall	To be presented on June 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2026, SPC Meeting
<b>Arts Plan</b>	To be discussed on June 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2026, SPC Meeting	TBC	2026-2030	Jenny Sherwin	To be presented on June 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2026, SPC Meeting