Wicklow County Council

Climate Action Plan

2024 - 2029



2025 Implementation Report for Elected Members & Stakeholders

September 2026

Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

2025 Implementation report for Elected Members & Stakeholders

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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 second progress report of the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. This progress report reflects the plan implementation period from January 2025 to December 2025. 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 second 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) [1], recommendations of broader sustainability reporting frameworks 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 2025 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 2025 from various themes of the plan. As part of this 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) [2] are "a blueprint1to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all" .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

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 local authority 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:

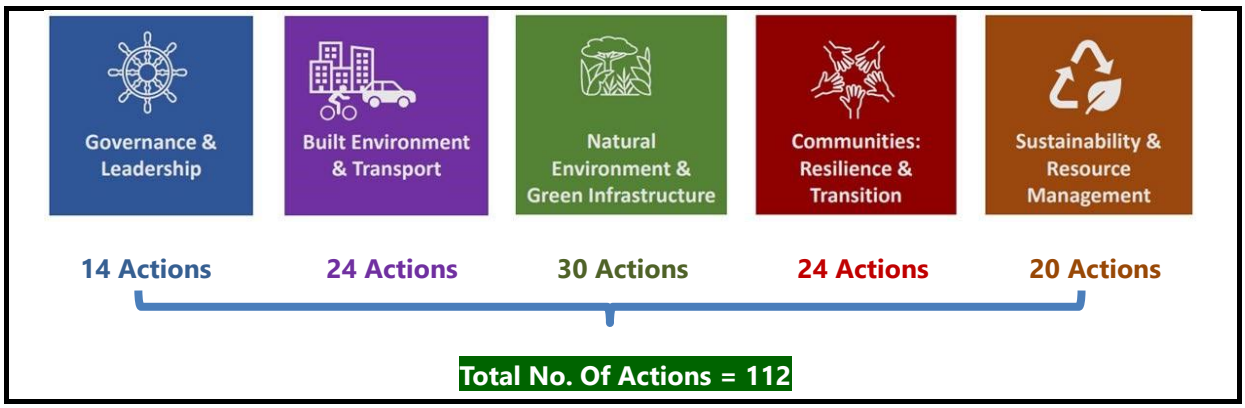


Figure 2.1 Action Number Breakdown Across Themes

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 Action Coordinator.

	Governance & Leadership	Built Environment & Transport	Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	Communities: Resilience & Transition	Sustainability & Resource Management
Actions Commenced by 2025	14	21	25	23	19
Actions Completed	6	7	3	3	0
Actions Completed and ongoing	7	3	12	11	10
Total Number of Actions in Progress	1	11	10	9	9
Actions to be commenced after 2025	0	3	5	1	1
Total Number of Actions	**14**	**24**	**30**	**24**	**20**

Table 2.1 Implementation Status of Actions

It was found that for the period 2025, that 98% (102) of the actions had commenced, with 36% (40) were classified as 'In progress' (with delivery timelines that extend to a period greater than a 12month period) and it was found that 9% (10) 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. 17% (19) of actions have been completed.

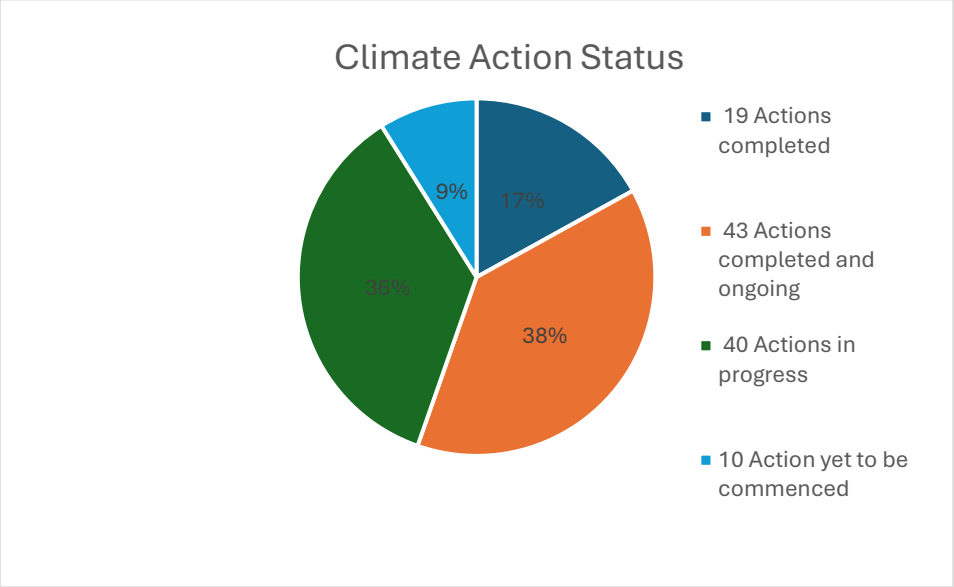


Figure 2.2 Action Status for County

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.

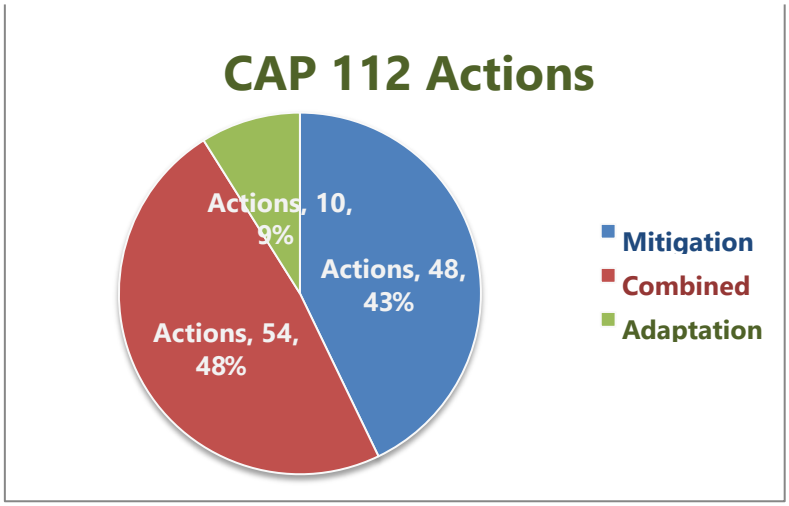


Figure 2.3 WCC CAP Action Type Breakdown

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 Action 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

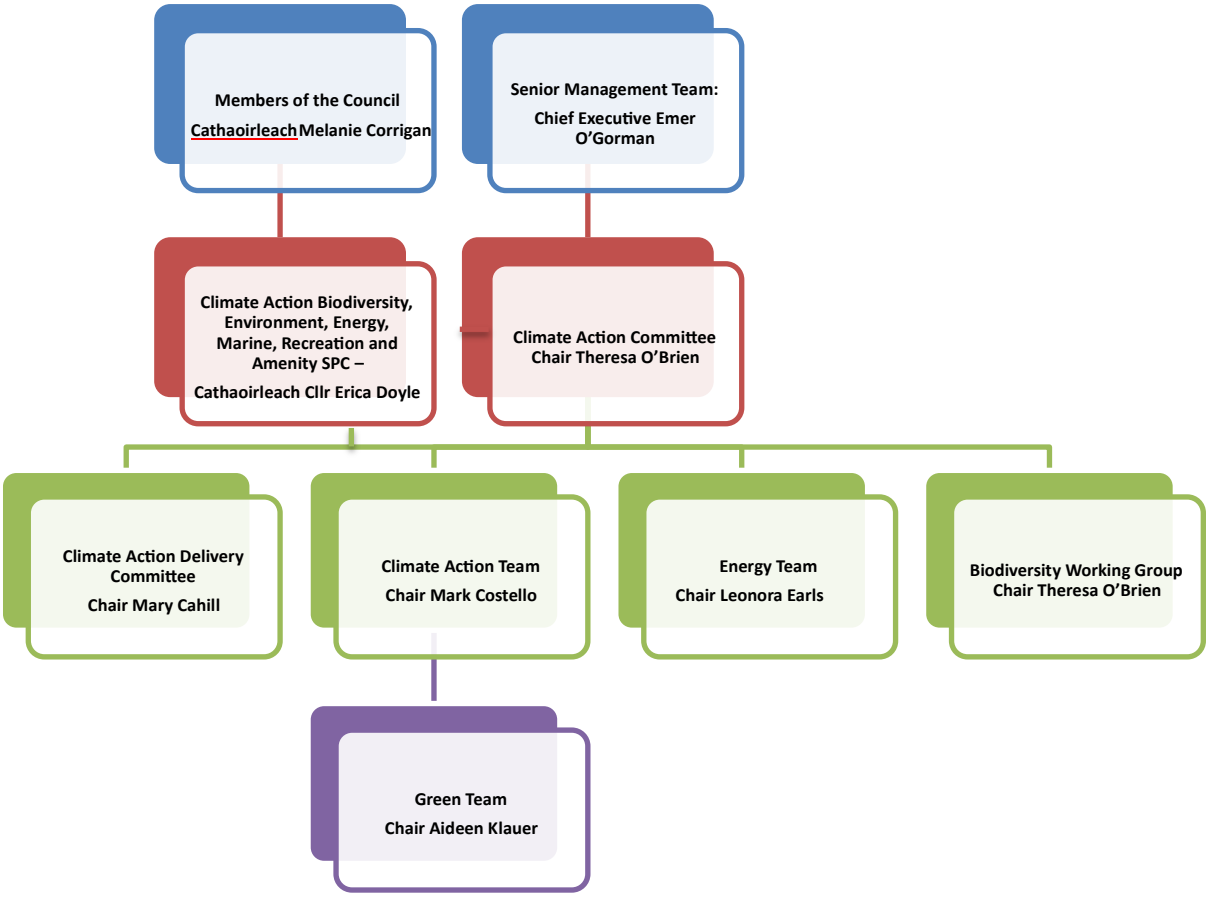


Figure 3.1 Climate Action Governance Structure

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 is to be 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 planning frameworks.

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, facilitate the Climate Action Committee in steering 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 collaborates with the Biodiversity Officer and acted as a steering group for reviewing the councils Biodiversity Action Plan and now 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

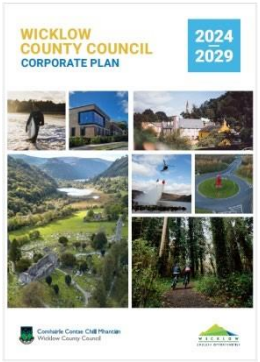
region, this comprises of seventeen local authorities each with common challenges in both climate mitigation and adaption. Please refer to the CARO webpage for more details: Home - CARO

3.2 Mainstreaming of Climate Action in our Plans and Operations

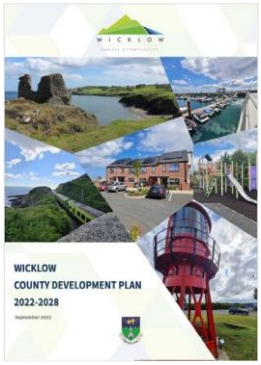
Wicklow County Council prioritises climate action across the functional and operational areas of the corporate body as reflected in Wicklow County Council's Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029 under Theme 2 Planet "To deliver climate resilient and regenerative biodiversity actions and maximise renewable energy opportunities in the County. It incorporates 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.



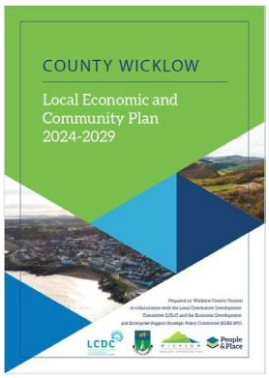
Action 2 GL which states "*Maintain a Climate and Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to ensure development of policy. All other SPCs to ensure climate resilience are incorporated into policy development. Place Climate Action Policy as a Standing Item on Corporate Policy Group meetings*" 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



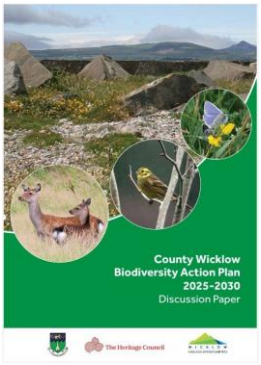
Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028



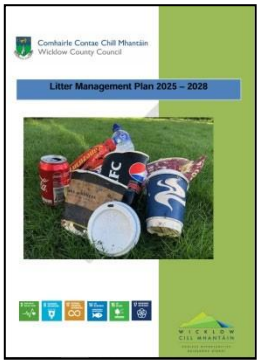
Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029



Wicklow County Council Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Policy and Developer Guidance 2025



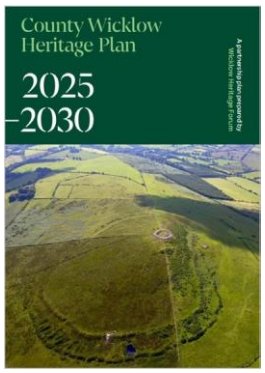
[Wicklow County Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2028] –



[Wicklow County Council Litter Management Plan 2025-2028] –



Guidelines for Increasing Alternatives to Herbicides in Public Open Spaces 2024



[County Wicklow 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 events 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: (including Shorelines, Bray MD, Greystones Library etc)	€4,985,000
➢ 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:	€2,500,000
Total Climate Action Financial Planning Highlighted Above	**€420,382,000**

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 a 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 is assisting 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

Energy Update for climate plan

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 2025 figures are still provisional and have not been finally verified by SEAI, therefore final figures will be published by the SEAI by end of Q2 2027. For the purposes of this 2026 report the provisional data of Wicklow County Council's energy performance for the period 2025 is outlined below.

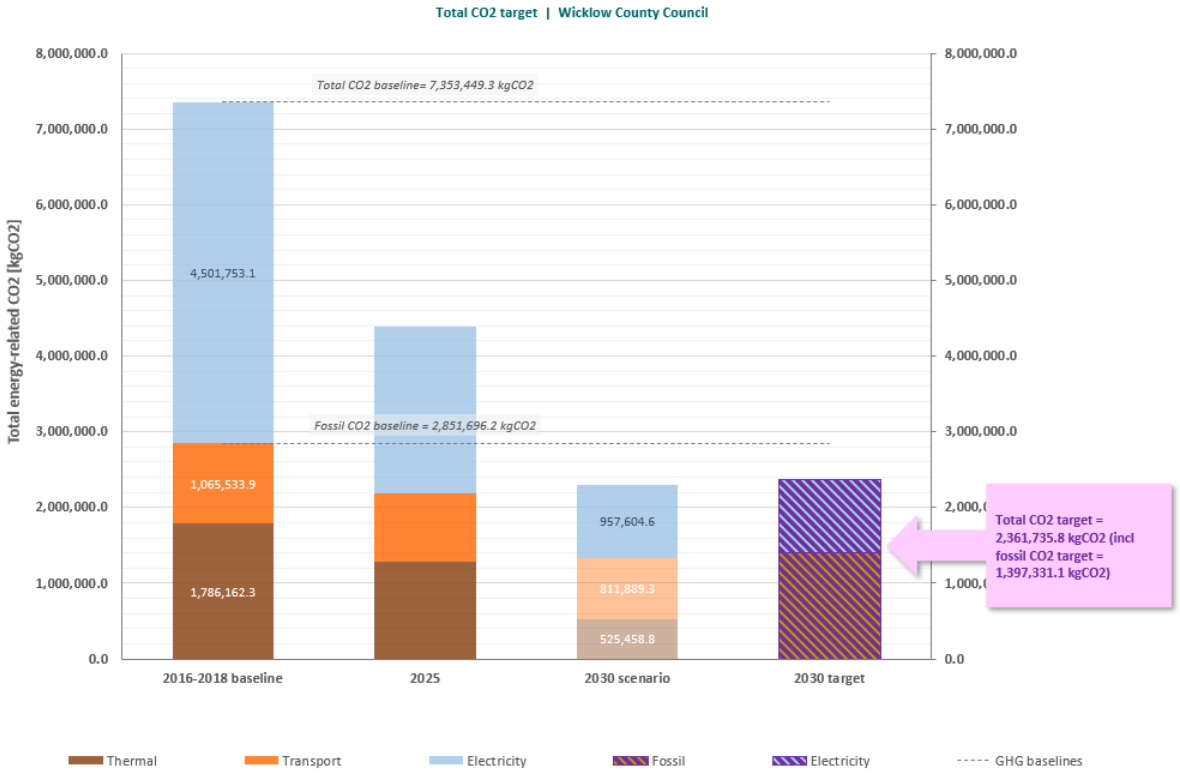


Figure 4.1 Wicklow County Council Total CO_2 Baseline v 2025 Progress v 2030 Target

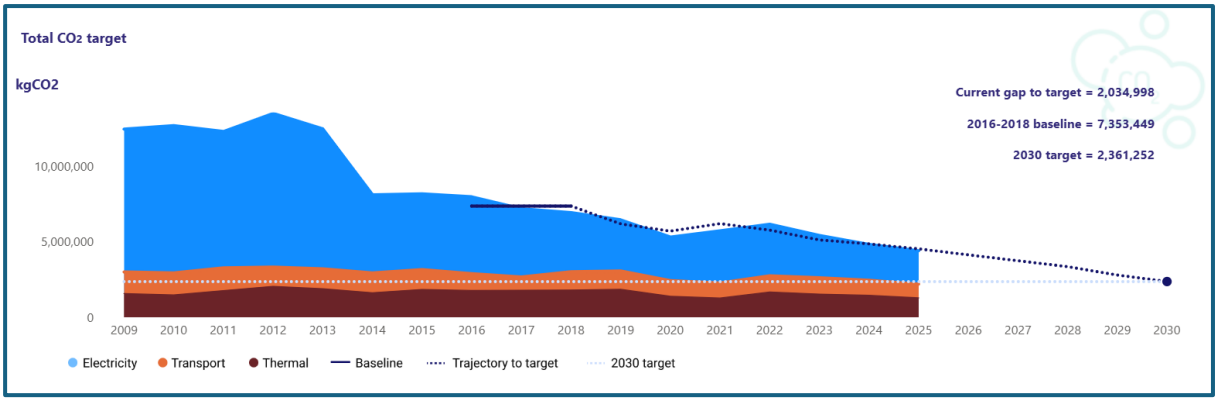


Figure 4.2 Total CO_2 Target

In 2025, total CO_2 emissions for Wicklow County Council were 40.2% below the 2016-2018 baseline of 7,352t CO_2. 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 2,035t CO_2 in the next 5 years to reach the 2030 target of 2,361t CO_2, (a 63.5% reduction within 5years).

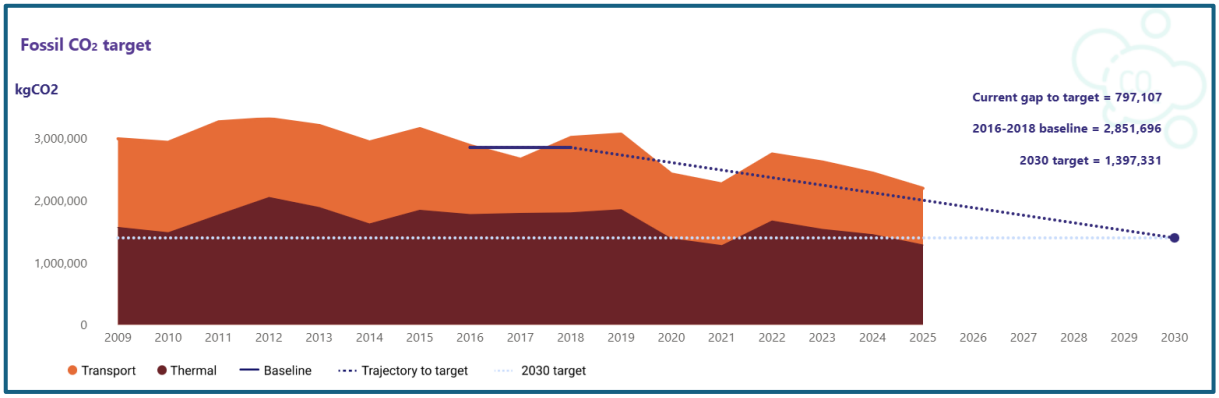


Figure 4.3 Fossil CO_2 Target

In 2025, total fossil fuel CO_2 emissions for Wicklow County Council were 23.0% below the 2016-2018 baseline of 2,851t CO_2. Wicklow County Council must save an additional 1,043t CO_2 in the next 6 years to reach the 2030 target of 797t CO_2 (a 77.3% reduction within 5 years).

For the council to reach the 2030 target, the planned building energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects including the four Leisure Centres, County Buildings, Arklow Municipal Office & Library, Blessington Municipal Office and Fleet Electrification must be delivered.

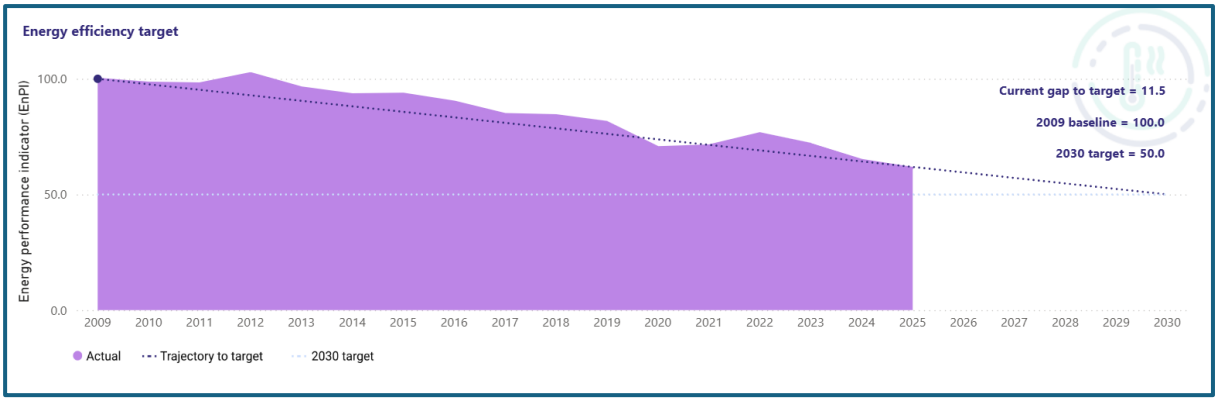


Figure 4.4 Energy Efficiency Target

In 2025, energy performance for Wicklow County Council has improved by 38.5% below the 2009 baseline. Wicklow County Council must improve by another 16.3% within 5 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:

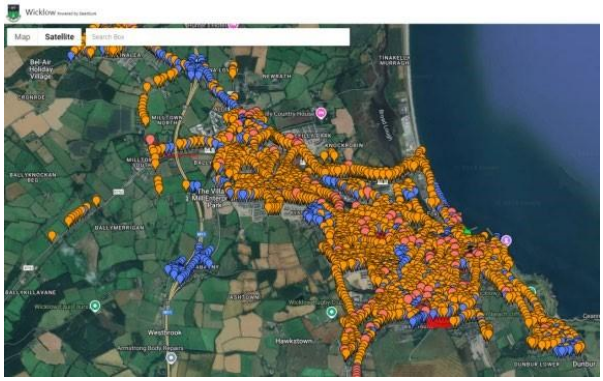
The Monastery Grove Retrofit Scheme stands as a benchmark in climate mitigation at the community level, demonstrating how deep energy retrofitting can play a vital role in addressing the climate crisis. By upgrading 29 homes to achieve a Building Energy Rating (BER) of B2 or better, the project delivers 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 2026, 13,342 out of 16,680 public lights representing 81% 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 2,955 MWh of electricity annually, down from a previous 4,814MWh (2023). 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 2028 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.

Community Climate Action Programme

Donard Community Hall retrofitted by Donard Community Enterprises CLG





Background

Donard Community Hall is comprised of the main Community Hall, the Meeting Place Café, and the Work hub. The original hall, which is now the Café, was constructed in the 1830s as a schoolhouse, while the current Community Hall was constructed in 1998.

The hall serves a number of important functions for the village community and wider area by hosting activities such as Indoor Bowls, Pilates, Local History meetings, Community Cinema, Concerts, Birthday Parties, Funeral Afters, "Meet the Neighbours" Events, Table Tennis, Art Lessons, Sewing & Crochet Lessons, ICA Meetings, Training Sessions.





Existing

An energy audit found that where the roof transitions vertically to meet the cavity wall it is not airtight resulting in significant draughts which increase the heating demand and make the hall cold and uncomfortable in winter. The walls are of standard cavity wall construction. They are assumed to have a U-

Value of 0.55 W.m2k however the cavity was never closed properly so any insulation which is present is ineffective. All lighting has been upgraded to T8 LED over the past few years.

Energy Audit Recommendations – Short Term (1-2 years)

Roof & Walls: insulation upgraded to levels required by Part L of the Building Regulations 2022.

Heating System: The boiler should be replaced, along with the header, circulating pump and circuit valves. Boiler should be capable of using HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) in future as a low carbon alternative fuel. Fit Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVs) to all radiators for more efficient control.

Renewable Energy: Install Solar Photovoltaics (PV) to generate electricity and incorporate an EV charging point. This will greatly reduce reliance on grid supplied electricity and associated running costs.

Medium Term (3 -5 years) and Long Term (5 – 10 years) recommendations were also given.

Application to CCAP funding

- Retrofit of roof and wall insulation to the community hall.
- Installation of 22kW Photovoltaic panels and EV charger along with inverter and battery.
- New boiler capable of switching to HVO
- Compost tumbler

Amount applied for was €91,275 and the amount approved was €72,952 (boiler excluded by evaluation panel).

Implementation

Challenges were encountered with the solar PV installation due to snowy conditions, however this was overcome by the contractor working with the community group. The next challenge was awaiting approval from ESB to receive a connection and smart meter installation.

Insulation, composter and EV charger were installed without any issues.










Results

The community group were very happy with the completed project, stating that the funding was essential to the project being completed. The hall is now a much improved community space, the project has increased climate awareness in the community and the energy bills have reduced by approximately 90% with an equivalent reduction in electricity related carbon.

One long time resident and hall user commented "*I can never remember a time in the hall where I didn't have to wear a coat, even in summer. Now I can be comfortable in a t-shirt*."

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):

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 conversation 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.

Ponds on Farmland with the Refarm Scheme:

ReFarm Wicklow is a regional pilot (along with The Burren) of the ReFarm project, testing a targeted thematic (ponds) and geographical (County Wicklow) approach to the creation of wildlife habitats on farmland. It was originally conceived in early 2025, following discussions between Hannah O'Kelly (Wicklow Biodiversity Officer) and Brendan Dunford (ReFarm) and executed largely by ecologist Aoife O'Rourke. It involved 12 Wicklow farmers, each one of whom created a wildlife pond on their land. The project was funded using 'blended' finance, with public funding from the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF – €25k) and private funding from ReFarm's Corporate and Foundation funders (covering the balance of payments for 2025 as well as result-based payments for 4 years).

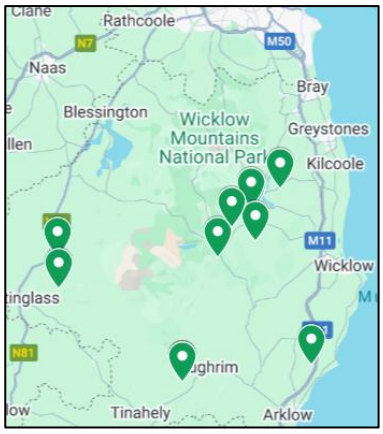
Aims

- To create wildlife ponds on Wicklow farms in order to make more space for nature and to help farmers adapt to the impacts of a changing climate (floods, droughts).
- To test a blended 'public-private' model for funding nature restoration on farmland.
- To learn from farmers and funders about how this approach worked for them.

Approach

- Farmers in Wicklow were asked to express their interest in participating via a simple on-line form (closing date June 27th). This call-out was widely advertised locally.

- 12 farmers were shortlisted (this number was based on ReFarm's funding capacity, allowing for a maximum budget of €3k per farmer).
- The ReFarm ecologist conducted desktop review of planned actions/locations and followed up with one or more site visits between July and September to discuss pond location, design etc, and advise on T&Cs.
- Approval to commence works (sometimes with conditions) was granted by ReFarm along with general guidelines for pond creation.



- Once work was completed, some photographs, along with pond dimensions, were sent to the ReFarm team and an invoice was prepared for the farmer.
- Once payment details were added to the invoice, the invoices were submitted and payments were issued immediately (within one week).

Outcomes

- 12 farmers participated, each one successfully creating one or more ponds on their farms.
- Each farm received an advisory visit from ReFarm ecologist Aoife O'Rourke and had access to ongoing advice as required, an important element in the success of the project.
- Average pond size was 761m2 and average farmer payment was €2,300. Half of the farmers exceeded their €3k allowance, thus generating significant 'added value' to the project.
- Total pond area created was 9,135m^2 (2.26 acres) and total payment was €27,423.
- All work was completed within project timeframes and all payments issued by Nov 2025.
- A closing event was held on Dec. 3rd on a participating farm, with most stakeholders present (funders, farmers, farm union leaders, farm advisors and ReFarm team members).

Each farmer submitted an image before (below, left) & after (right) construction, along with pond size





Conclusions

1. The project was a resounding success. For funders, a number of very large ponds were created over a very short timeframe and at excellent value for money. Farmers appreciated the in-person, on-site advice, the minimal paperwork and the prompt payments.
2. For nature, these ponds will provide significant, ongoing benefits, as well as helping control water flow during extreme rainfall events and providing back-up water during droughts.
3. Anecdotally, key success factors were the availability of local, on-site advice and good contractors (digger drivers) and ease of transactions (paperwork, payments etc).
4. While delivery costs (advice, admin, payments etc) exceeded the cap of 20%, this level of support was important in ensuring the work was carried out to the highest standard.



Next Steps

- In 2026, farmers will be asked to complete a simple 'pond report card' to capture the condition of their pond. This, along with 2-3 images, will be sent to the ReFarm team.
- Additional third-party checks will be organised to ensure consistency of reporting.
- Pond report cards will be used to generate condition scores (1-5) which will be linked to a pre-agreed payment rate for that score. This, along with pond area, will be used to calculate the farmers annual 'result-based payment' for that year.
- Payments for results will issue to farmers in late summer 2026 and for three further years.
- We plan to undertake feedback surveys of participating farmers, and funders, to continue to learn from them about how ReFarm can be further improved.

SpongeWorks Project

Wicklow County Council in partnership with the Wicklow Uplands Council, the East Wicklow Rivers Trust and LAWPRO was selected to participate in an EU horizon project SpongeWorks. After the parent project received

over 70 applications eight regions were chosen to become associated regions in the project which aims to help shape how Europe manages water, land, and climate risks. Each participating region will work on strategy to develop and scale sponge measures – Nature based Solutions that help retain water, reduce flood or drought risk and restore ecosystems. Wicklow's project explores restoring the Aughrim River's capacity to slow water flow.

Wicklow is the only participating region selected from Ireland and joins regions from Germany & The Netherlands, France, Greece, Hungary, Belgium, Italy, Finland, Spain, Ukraine and Montenegro. All regions will work together sharing learning and mutual capacity building. The plan is to implement sponge measures with the aim that they can then be scaled up with new tools developed for their implementation and the embedding of sponge strategy into local governance and planning.

SpongeWorks is a leading Horizon Europe initiative in nature-based climate adaption, bringing together 28 partners and 23 knowledge institutions. The project is developing practical, scalable solutions for sponge measures implementation which address critical questions about effectiveness, financing, governance and stakeholder engagement.

The name SpongeWorks reflects the capacity of our soils and habitats to soak up excess rainfall like a sponge. Sponge measures protect and enhance the capacity of our landscape to absorb rainfall releasing it more slowly back into our rivers.





The SpongeWorks team in Wicklow will work with landowners and stakeholders in the upper Aughrim River catchment and the community of Aughrim, working together to assess opportunities and co create solutions that will benefit all.

4.6 Combined Projects

Staff Training:

During 2025, the training officer in collaboration with LASNTG continued to roll out Climate Action - Raising Awareness Training - Administrative Staff Grades 3 - 7 and analogous grades. Three iterations were held in 2025. 71 staff were enrolled throughout 2025 with 31 completions 43% compliance.

Training on NZEB building was provided for staff as part of Climate Action Week with the Mount Angus mobile training unit. A CDP seminar was delivered on Nature based solutions.

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	▪ "Reduce your Use" campaign communications delivered to staff by email. Promotion of the campaign via WCC social media platforms.
	▪ SDG Week Awareness ▪ Climate Action Week Held ▪ The Council ran various training events in 2025 aimed at various elements of the community including Tidy Town Groups, Sports Clubs, Businesses and various community groups.
	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
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 Wicklow and Arklow 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. Nine Energy Efficiency grants were approved in 2025.

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 2025 21 businesses were provided with support through these programmes. Three doing business better information sessions were delivered in 2025 to promote Green for Business and Energy Efficiency grants.

An offshore renewable event was held in collaboration with the East Coast Offshore Renewable Energy Network in November 2025 at the Arklow Bay Hotel in November 2025 at the Arklow Bay Hotel aimed at aligning skills policy and supply chains.

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

Green for Business - Local Enterprise Office - Wicklow

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 Procurement Policy and Procedures document. The document 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

In 2024 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 €646,000. The funding supports community projects in partnership with local non-profit and voluntary groups, distributed across small, medium, and largescale 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 worked with the successful community groups on their projects ensuring that work and drawdown of funding was completed throughout 2025 ahead of the deadline for completion in 2026.

Engagement also continues with groups who did not get approval for funding. Throughout 2025 and Phase 2 of funding was launched in December 2025 with a further €646,000 available to Wicklow communities. Evaluation and award did not take place until 2026.

The following table shows the projects awarded in Phase 1.

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 harversting 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
Eirog 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 1.0 successful groups

Climate Action Week:



Figure 4.12 Climate Action Week 2025

Wicklow County Council held a highly successful Climate Action Week from September 17th to 30th, featuring over 30 events across the county. The week aligned with Ireland's fourth Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week. The SDGs outline a vision for a fairer, healthier and more sustainable future, with ambitions such as ending poverty, achieving gender equality, protecting nature, ensuring decent work and tackling climate change. . 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.

Events Highlights included:

- Thursday, 18th September - Green Business Lunch & Learn at Tulfarris House from 12:30pm to 2pm.
- Thursday, 18th September – The Arklow Climate Innovation Programme hosted its third session in person from 2-3pm in the Arklow Arts Centre, exploring how Arklow as County Wicklow's decarbonisation zone can address climate challenges.
- Friday, 19th September - A Business Breakfast meeting was hosted at The Grid, Charlesland between 9- 10:30am. This event wass held in partnership with East Wicklow Business Network.
- Saturday, 20th September - A County Wicklow Tidy Towns Forum Event took place in An Tairseachs Conference room from 9:30 to 5pm. All Tidy Town Groups were invited to attend.
- Sunday, 21st September – A communal garden network meeting was held at Jacksmill Forest Garden in Newcastle from 10am to 12:30pm.
- Monday, 22nd - 30th September - The Mount Lucas Energy Truck, which was located on the Prom in Wicklow (Murrough Car Park). Members of the public were welcome to drop in and learn more about retrofits, insulation, air tightness, solar pv, heat pumps and ventilation systems.
- Monday 22nd - 25th September - The energy truck was open to the public from 3pm to 5:30 pm
- Saturday, 27th September – A Storm Garden Course was held in Bray Library with Aoife Munn.
- Saturday, 27th September - Greystones Climate Action Forum meeting took place in the Greystones Golf Club. The local community was invited to share knowledge about their Climate Actions.
- Thursday the 25th September - A Community Climate Action Program information & networking event was held for community groups in Donard Community Hall

Throughout the Week the Library Service hosted various events, including ECO-UNESCO Fast Fashion workshops, SDG-themed arts and crafts, story time sessions, and writing workshops.

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.

Wicklow Youth Biodiversity conference

In April 2025, Blessington Community College hosted the inaugural Wicklow Youth Biodiversity Conference, an event that signalled a new chapter in youth led environmental action. The conference hosted students from Colaiste Bhride, Carnew, Scoil Chonglais , Baltinglass and St. Kevins Community College, Dunlavin. The conference was student led with students actively participating in presentation and facilitation. Key speakers included Declan Byrne of Birdwatch, Dr. Jim Carolan of Maynooth University, Gillian Stewart of Wicklow Mountains National Park, Eanna Ni Lamhna and Anja Murray

Biodiversity Action Plan

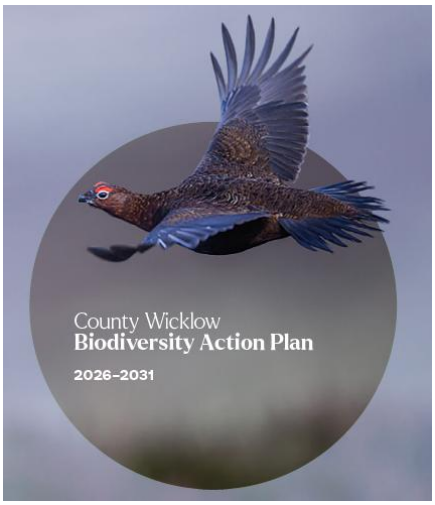


Figure 4.15 County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan:

Wicklow County Council adopted its **Biodiversity Action Plan 2026–2031**, setting out a clear framework to protect, restore and enhance biodiversity across the county over the next five years. The Plan translates the ambitions of Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan into practical local action and supports delivery of national and EU biodiversity commitments at county level.

Aim and Approach

The overarching aim of the Plan is to halt biodiversity loss and support nature recovery in County Wicklow through coordinated, evidence-based and collaborative action.

The Plan focuses on three complementary strands:

- Leading by example: embedding biodiversity across Council lands, services, planning and procurement.

- Supporting rural and urban communities: enabling communities, landowners, schools and organisations to take action for nature.
- Working collaboratively across the landscape: partnering with agencies, NGOs, farmers and stakeholders to strengthen ecological networks and deliver restoration at scale.

The Plan has been developed with support from the Heritage Council's Biodiversity Officer Programme, which provides national coordination and support for biodiversity delivery in local authorities.

Biodiversity Working Group

A multi-stakeholder Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) supported the development of the Plan. The BWG brought together representatives from statutory agencies, community networks, farming organisations, environmental NGOs and recreational interests.

The Group provided technical input, local knowledge and strategic guidance, helping to shape and refine actions so that they are practical, evidence-based and aligned with national policy.

Preparation and Environmental Screening

The Plan was informed by a pre-draft public engagement phase and a public consultation period on the Draft Plan. Submissions from the public, stakeholders and prescribed environmental authorities were reviewed and considered in the Chief Executive's Report.

The Draft Plan was screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA). The screening process determined that SEA and AA were not required. The Chief Executive's Report, along with the SEA and AA Screening Determinations, are available to view below.

Adoption and Implementation

Following review through the Strategic Policy Committee process, the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026–2031 was formally adopted by the Elected Members of Wicklow County Council on 1 December 2025.

Implementation will be supported through cross-departmental coordination, partnership working and annual progress reporting to ensure transparency, accountability and continuous improvement over the lifetime of the Plan.

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 below.



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 om climate action – Delivering Effective Climate Action (DECA) 2030 and the National Climate Action Plan.

To date the working group has published three annual Climate Action KPI reports, with the most recent being published in September 2025. The report contains information relating to progress in 2024 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:

2024 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 2025 was collected over the period January 15th – January 31st 2026 and will be published in summer 2026 by the LGMA. Number 4 above – Climate Action Plans has been included for 2025 and will collect data on the delivery of climate action plans from every local authority.

The 2025 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 2025 under the following themes as shown on the below table:

	Mitigation	Adaptation	Combined
Not Started	2	4	4
In Progress	20	5	19
Completed – Once off	9	3	1
Completed – Recurring	14	5	26
Total	45	17	50

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 2025. 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.

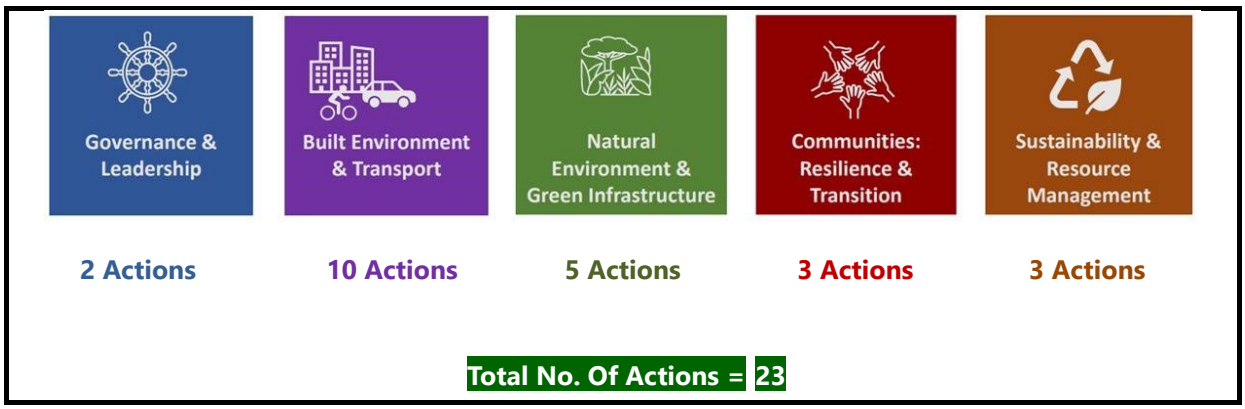


Figure 6.1 DZ Action Breakdown Across Themes

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	10	5	3	3
Actions Completed	0	2	0	0	0
Actions Completed and ongoing	1	0	0	0	1
Total Number of Actions in Progress	1	8	5	3	2
Actions to be commenced after 2025	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 100% (23) of the actions had commenced, with 83% (19) were classified as 'In progress' (with delivery timelines that extend to a period greater than a 12 month period). Out of the 23 actions in the Arklow DZ, 4% (1) of these are actions that are partially completed that recur annually. 9% (2) of actions were listed as complete. 4%(1) has yet to commence.

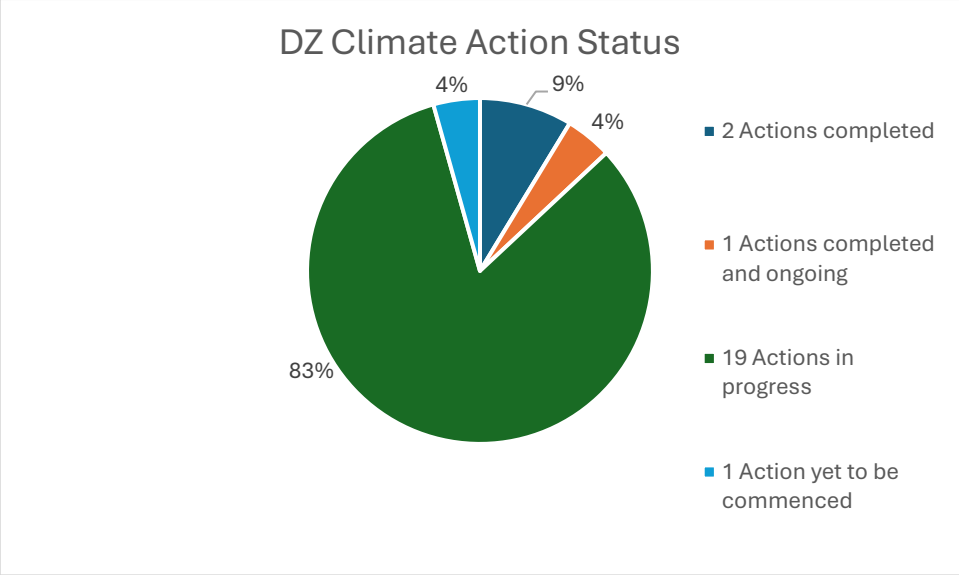


Figure 6.2 DZ Action Status

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.

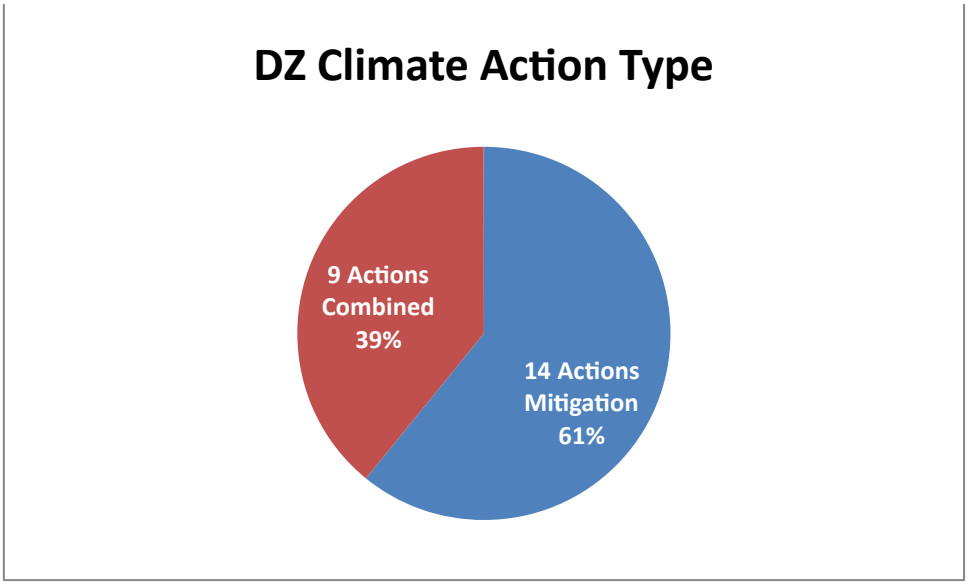


Figure 6.3 DZ Action Type

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 2025 under the following themes as shown on the below table:

	Mitigation	Adaptation	Combined
Not Started			1
In Progress	13		6
Completed – Once off	1		1
Completed – Recurring			1
Total	14		9

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 2025. 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

Irelands 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 Dublins 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.

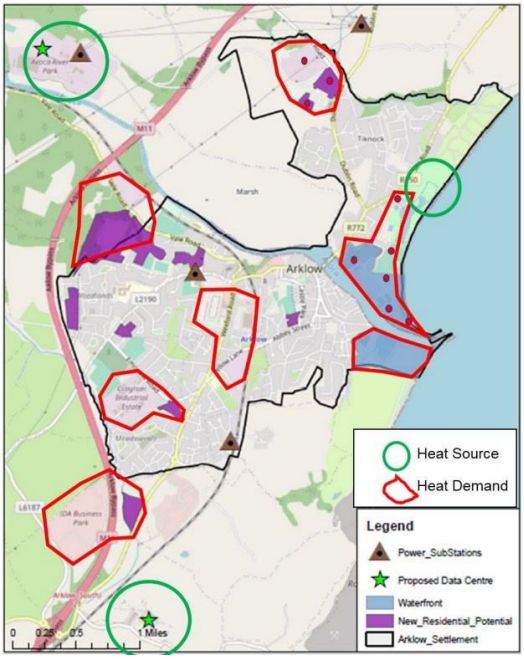


Figure 6.4 Indicative clusters of heat sources and demand locations.

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. 34 households participated in the meitheal by Phase 3 in 2025. SEAI filmed a case study video on the project in 2025.

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 IKC3 training at Arklow Arts Centre

IKC3 Climate Innovation Programme:

Wicklow County Council was one of five local authorities that worked with Trinity College and Munster Technical University to deliver the Community Climate Innovation Programme in Arklow. The course aimed to build community understanding and engagement with climate action. The course aimed to build climate knowledge and encourage local networking to design local solutions together. Key modules included:

- Exploring systems for analysing local climate change issues
- Identifying areas for climate action
- Co-creation of solutions

The course was advertised locally and offered to key stakeholder organisations. Fifteen participants signed up for the course. The course ran from September to December 2025. It consisted of six lunchtime webinars, three in person sessions held in the Arklow Arts Centre, three lunchtime coaching webinars and an in person summit with all participants nationwide at Trinity College.

IKC3 is Ireland's Knowledge centre for carbon, climate and community. It aims to provide education for transition to a low carbon economy.

All participants received a certificate of participation but also had the option of completing coursework to gain a level 8 micro credit from Munster Technical University

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 was unfortunately not successful. The principal partner, Oyster Haven subsequently withdrew interest in the project.

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 propertiesThe scheme is currently in design stage, the current programme shows a main works contractor will be appointed to commence works by Q2 2027. The scheme is a 4 year construction with completion in 2031. The scheme design includes a range of bio diversity measures in regards to flora & fauna which will enhance the area including the marsh lands in Arklow. The design also includes number of SUDs features such as rain gardens within the urban area of Arklow town.

Project Website - https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/arklow/home/ https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Municipal-Districts/Arklow/FRS

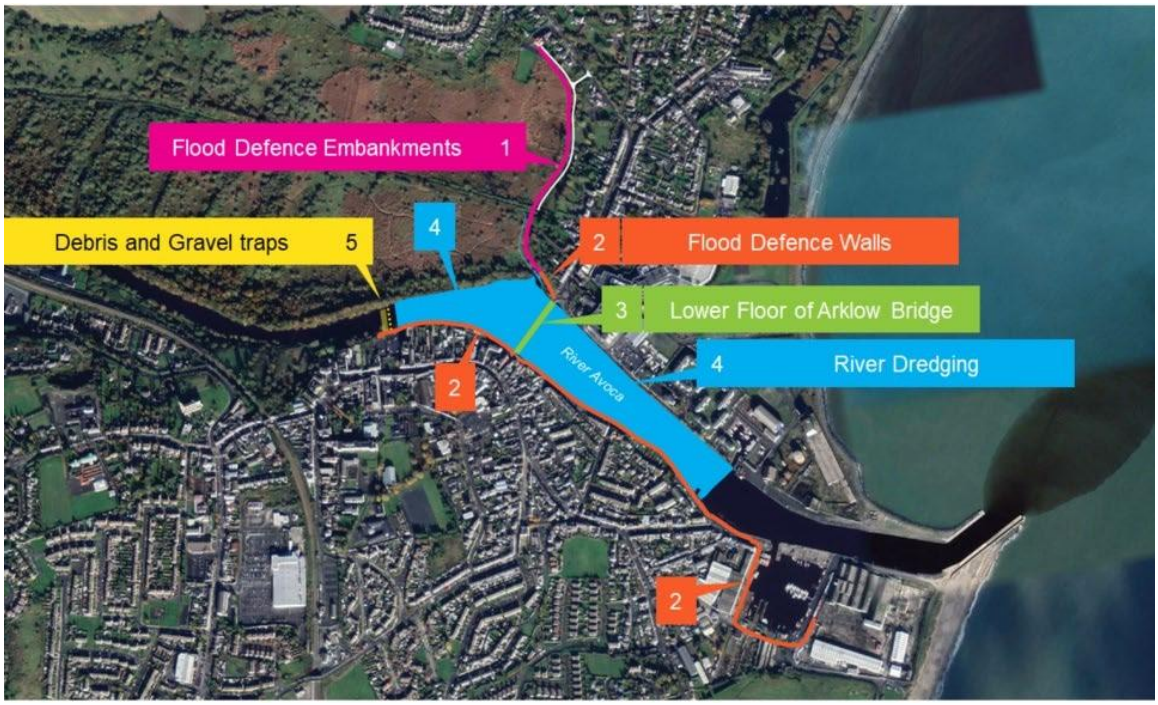


Figure 6.6 Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Appendix A: Wicklow County Council Action Implementation Data for KPI 2025 Return

No.	Action	Lead Department	Timeframe	Progress Report 2025	Status
Theme 1: Governance & Leadership (G&L)					
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	On agenda for each meeting. Presented by CERA Director of Service but moving to a presentation by each Director of Service in 2026.	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	Four meetings held plus an extra meeting for the Biodiversity plan.	Completed and Ongoing
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 still in situ.	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	LASNTG continued to roll out Climate Action - Raising Awareness Training - Administrative Staff Grades 3 - 7 and analagous grades. Three iterations were held in 2025. 71 staff were enrolled throughout 2025 with 31 completions 43% compliance. As part of induction pack new starters are asked to familarise themselves with a number of policy documents including the Corporate Plan 2024 - 2029, which includes our Corporate Goals in relation to Climate Action.	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	Team in 2025 included the three core positions of Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer, Community Climate Action Officer, plus a Climate Action graduate, the Environmental Awareness Officer, the Biodiversity Officer and a assistant Staff officer for admin support. Assistant EAO was vacant throughout the year.	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	Green team met four times during the year. A key piece of work was a staff commuter survey.	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 and Ongoing

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	Municipal district meetings attended and collaboration with the districts on a range of projects including nature based SuDS, tree planting and biodiversity projects.	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	Regular updates on project implementatation and events in media outlets including radio, local press and our own social media.	Completed and Ongoing
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	Local are plans adopted for Wicklow and Blessington	Completed
11 GL	Lead the energy unit for the region including Wicklow, Kildare, and Meath Local Authorities to: • 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. Multi-Party framework of contractors established to progress smaller decarbonisation projects outside of EPC.	In Progress

12 GL	Accreditation to the International Standard for Energy Management ISO 50001 by 2024 to deliver: • annual plan • register of opportunities • 3-year cycle • energy review Including monitoring and reporting to SEAI.	Environment (Energy Officer)	2024-2029	ISO 50001 accreditation achieved by Wicklow County Council in September 2024, independent surveillance audits carried out in 2025 & 2026. Continuous improvement of ISO Energy Management Systems and Monitoring & Reporting ongoing. Full re-certification audit scheduled for 2027. Annual Energy Action Plan, Register of Opportunities and Audit Plan in place.	Completed
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 20 buildings in 2025/2026. 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	Remote working for eligible staff available for up to two days per week. £2% of staff avail of blended working.	Completed

Theme 1: Governance & Leadership (G&L)					
1 BET	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. • 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. Blessington Fire Station, Bray Civic Office and Civil Defence Headquarters fully decarbonised. Arklow MD / Library (Part removal of gas boiler, install ASHP, PV solar panels planned for 2026/2027) Blessington Area Office: (Part removal of gas boiler, install ASHP, PV solar panels planned for 2026/2027)	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	Not progressed yet	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 Muncipal Districts	2024-2029	Incorporated through green procurement.	Completed

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	Only heat pumps installed in 2025.	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	68 newly constructed houses to A2 standard in 2025. 103 houses upgraded under the National retrofitting programme.	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	Project is still in progress. Wicklow County Council are currently upgraded non-LED outside the scope of PLEEP (heritage style lanterns, using a colour temperature of 2700K). Any new lighting in any environmentally sensitive area are conditioned to be a max cct of 2700 kelvins	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	TID staff, KS BOS MF, attending and assisting regional EV strategy with Kildare Co Co.	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	Infrastructure for EV charging laid in new housing developments. Awaiting policy on EV charging.	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: Ballyguilemore Active Travel Facilities - 530m of footpath Arklow South Active Travel Improvements - 1.4km footpath, 2.9km cycle track, upgraded zebra crossings on roundabout and 1 junction tightening Greystones Pathfinder - Church Road Upgrade - 400m shared vehicle/cyclist carriageway, 2 junction tightening, 1 new zebra crossing Kilcoole Road Footpath 430m	Completed
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.	TWES, Active Travel	2024-2029	Completed SRTS works at 4 schools 1. SS Michael and Peter Junior School 2. St. Kevin's National School, Greystones 3.St. John's Senior National School 4.Scoil Nicolais Naofa, Dunlavin	Completed

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		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		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: • Fassaroe, • Ashford / Rathnew • Kilpedder	TWES	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 completed improving local access and bus service connection to DART services.	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 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	e-Bike scheme renewed for Bray, extended to Greystones and trialled in Wicklow Town.	Completed and Ongoing
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		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 and Fleet Inventory completed.	In Progress

20 BET	Fleet Management: Implement a transport energy management system including a fuel management system into the council fleet. 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. 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	TWES and Machinery Yard	2024-2029	Assessment of Machinery Yard vehicles underway. New vehicles being purchased. Approx 8 EV to be purchased/leased in coming months. HVO fuel progressed in 2025.	In Progress
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, mico-surfacing into the annual roads programme).	TWES and Municipal Districts	2024-2029	The Municipal Districts continue to incorporate the use of RAP and warm-mix materials into their road improvement projects in line with DoT requirements.	In Progress

22 BET	Standardise the management of drainage systems within the council including: • 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 Started

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	The Municipal Districts continue to deliver CCAR projects and improve drainage in line with grant funding.	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	28 staff availed of the cycle to work scheme in 2025. Staff survey undertaken.	In Progress

Theme 3: Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure (NE&GI)					
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 CoCo, DCC 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		

3 NEGI	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. Undertake Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of all Local Area Plans and Development Plans. 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.	Planning & Environment	2024 - 2029	The council have implemented Strategic Flood Risk Assessments of our Local Area Plans and County Development Plan. 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 SuDS policy and guidelines. 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.	Completed and Ongoing
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.	Planning, Housing	2024 - 2029	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 SuDS policy.	Completed and Ongoing

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.	Environment	2024-2029	Policy brought to SPC and full council in 2025.	Completed and Ongoing
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 Muncipal 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 are 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 *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.	Environment (Pollution Control)	2024-2027	Funding secured by Wicklow County Council through the EU Horizon project. Spongeworks to work on the Aughrim River catchment. Wicklow Uplands Council, East Wicklow Rivers Trust and Lawpro partners to the project.	Completed and Ongoing

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	Initial pilot in Greystones. Housing Capital Schemes and Active Travel are using NB SuDS within their designs	In Progress

9 NEGI	Deliver the following Flood Relief Schemes: • Arklow Flood Relief Scheme • Avoca Flood Relief Scheme • Baltinglass Flood Relief Scheme 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.	Environment	2028	Arklow Flood Relief Scheme: The scheme is currently in design stage, the current programme shows a main works contractor will be appointed to commence works by Q2 2027. The scheme is a 4 year construction with completion in 2031. The scheme design includes a range of bio diversity measures in regards to flora & fauna which will enhance the area including the marsh lands in Arklow. The design also includes number of SUDs features such as rain gradens within the urban area of Arklow town. Avoca Flood Scheme We are currently developing a brief for services with the intention to have a consultant appointment in 2027 to commence the stage 3 design.	In Progress

10 NEGI	Work with the OPW in order to review and progress more detailed studies on schemes including: • 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. 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.	Environment	2024 - 2029	Not commenced yet.	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	Sea buckthorn removal with volunteers. Work was undertaken to remove bracken and scrub from the dry heath habitat. Plans developed for managed grazing	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	Management plans for Bray Head and Clermont developed. Removal of non native hedgerow on Bray Head to allow for planting of native hedgerow.	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	Funding development of an alternative to glyphosate study for the management of openspace with Kildare Co Co. Approval given to develop a Parks department.	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	Weedhex machines supplied to all districts. Funding for Kildare Alternatives to Glyphosate study.	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	Plan adopted in March 2024.	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 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	Plan adopted in December 2025	Completed
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	Biodiversity Officer promoting adherence to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan by municipal ditricts and local Tidy Towns groups. Signage provided.	In Progress
19 NEGI	Review the Tree Management Policy and support its implementation.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2025	Resourcing issues which may be helped by development of a Parks team	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	Hedge row survey completed.	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. Sea buckthorn removal with volunteers.	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	Training in preparation	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	Being considered for all housing developments where opportunity arises to incorporate design elements.	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. Secured funding from EU Horizon project Spongeworks to work on delivery of nature based solutions within the Aughrim River catchment. A wetland survey is part of proposed work.	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	One member of the Climate Action Team is a member of the Wicklow Uplands Council. Currently there are meetings on a range of initiatives including developing a DARK SKY initiative with the NPWS and WUC, the Spongeworks 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	The Fire Service working with Coillte and the NPWS completed a training exercise to assess ability to deal with large forest fires, the first such training in Ireland. It was held at Turlough Hill.	In Progress
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	Tender developed for assessment of four towns and lighting pollution management plan.	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	Multiple BHIS, HSF and CMF projects administered in 2025	Completed

30 NEGI	Support engagement of stakeholders on initiatives that assist in the control and management of deer.	Environment (Biodiversity Officer)	2024-2029	Vision for Venison event held in Tulfaris for food journalists and writers with Wicklow Naturally	Completed and Ongoing

Theme 4: Communities Resilience & Transition (CR&T)					
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	Phase 1 CCAP projects largely completed by end of 2025 ahead of the deadline in March 2026. Phase 2 funding was launched in September with a December deadline for submission. 49 applications received.	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	Collaborated with Coddling Wind farm on Schools Climate Action conference	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	IkC3 Community Climate Action training delivered in Arklow. C;limate forum established in Greystones.	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.	(Environment) Climate Action Team	2024-2029	Regular updates to the PPN.	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	In preparation.	In Progress
6 CRT	Develop an annual '*Climate Action Week*' with a range of educational events throughout the county delivered by a range of participants.	Environment (Climate Action Team)	2024-2029	Held to coincide with SDG week.	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 2025, 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	Citizen science tools equipment and guidance purchased for distribution through the libraries. Five citizen science workshops were held which included training on how to upload sightings to the National Biodiversity Programme database.	In Progress
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	22 schools awarded a Green Flag in 2025.	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	Grange Con became the latest SEC to complete an Energy Master plan. Bray Tidy Towns, Newcastle, Tiglin and Christchurch Delgany all received grant approval to undertake an Energy masterplan.	Completed and Ongoing

11 CRT	Support community groups in their efforts to develop communal gardens and allotments.	CCSD; Municipal Districts	2024-2026	Communal garden network event held in Jackmill Forest Garden, Newcastle. Edible Arklow project supported. Advice give to Tinahely project.	Completed and Ongoing
12 CRT	Promote tree planting by providing: • an annual tree planting grant for communities and schools • trees to communities during National Tree Week	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	36 applications received for annual tree grant of which 32 were approved. 1000 trees were distributed during National Tree Week.	Completed and Ongoing
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.	CCSD (Town Regeneration Officer – Town Centre First)	2024-2025		In Progress
14 CRT	Develop sustainability in the arts with *Creative Climate Action* funding.	CCSD (Arts Office)	2024-2029	Funding call in 2026	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	Climate Action Week aligned with SDG Week. SDGs highlighted at events throughout the year.	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 2025 there was two Green Clubs in the County; Naomh Teagain/Kiltegan and Newtown GAA. Wicklow County Council engage with CARO and the GAA clubs promting 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 *Home Energy Savings Kit* scheme in WCC libraries, including training for staff.	Environment (EAO/Energy Officer)	2024-2029	Available in all county libraries. Promoted at Tinahely Show & Wicklow Energy Awareness Day	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	Talk given for Arklow Active Retirement group. Preparation to run a course for over 55s' in Bray on Climate Action was undertaken with Jacinta Barrins facilitating the course.	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	Workshop planned for travelling community in partnership with Bray Area Partnership. EAO undertook project with CEART.	In Progress

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		In Progress
21 CRT	Provide accessible bus stops on new and existing routes.	TWES	2024- 2029	Bustops being upgraded on local link and regional bus service routes	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 Started
23 CRT	Work with the *Healthy Food Made Easy Programme* and *Community Food Initiative.*	Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	Climate Team represented on Food Poverty Committee. Events held in Bray and Arklow. Networking service provider and exploring links with Food Cloud.	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. Schools conference in Blessington Community College on biodiversity . EAO supports Green School schools on biodiversity and climate themes.	Completed and Ongoing

Theme 5: Sustainability & Resource Management (S&RM)

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		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	To be assigned to the new EAO when role filled	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	Brown bin promotion campaign at major events including the Tinahely agriculture show. 1000 compost caddies purchased for campaign.	Completed and Ongoing
4 SRM	Support SME's through the: • 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	2025: 21 Green for Micro approved. 9 energy Efficiency Grants approved.In addition, in 2025, LEO Wicklow organised 3 x Doing Business Better public events to promote the Green for Business and Energy Efficiency Grants. Each event featured guest speakers from the business community showcasing how the LEO supported their business in reducing their carbon footprint. Over 80 attendees throughout the 3 events which took place in Blessington, Greystones and Clermont House, see pics attached.	Completed and Ongoing

5 SRM	Promote uptake of energy performance measures in business and agricultural sectors through the promotion of: • 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.	ECS (LEO); Environment (EAO)	2024-2029	Three Doing Business Better Information sessions delivered in 2025 to promote G4Business and Energy Efficiency Grant.	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	Skills Strategy Work plan progressed.	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	An offshore renewable event was held in collaboration with the East Coast Offshore Renewable Energy Network in November 2025 at the Arklow Bay Hotel in November 2025 at the Arklow Bay Hotel aimed at aligning skills policy and supply chains. 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 privately operated hubs supported through Choose Wicklow, First full year in operation for the Grid, Greystones. Design for Carnew working hub.	Completed and Ongoing
9 SRM	Identify and implement Rural Development Fund initiatives that deliver on a transition towards a climate-neutral rural economy to include: • rural transport, • working hubs, • town and village regeneration • nature-based solutions • digital initiatives • green economy • bio-economy 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.	ECS (Town Regeneration Officer)	2024-2029		In Progress

10 SRM	Promote sustainability in the tourism, food and the hospitality sector.	ECS (Wicklow Tourism)	2024-2029	Vision for Venison event held in Tulfaris for food journalists and writers with Wicklow Naturally	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	Promoting Green for Micro (business) to food and drink producers. Wicklow Naturally promotion of local food producers online and through October feast events.	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. Funding of €93,000 was secured for the EU Horizon Spongeworks project on the Aughrim River catchment.	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 last of which for 2025 related to the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme Training that took place in September, October and November 2025, and the EPA webinar on Green Public Procurement in Practice that took place in November 2025 .	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	The potential development of green energy at this sites requires an expression of interest to be advertised on etenders. A meeting was held with a potential interested party.	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	Ongoing inspections and legal action by enforcement team.	In Progress
16 SRM	Implement and further utilise Local Government Management Association shared services such as the following: • 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	The council are currently implementing the following shared services: • 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 commenced 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	Tendering process for the rewiring of the Rampere facility was completed towards the end of 2025.Looking at plans for work on Bray Recycling centre.	Completed and Ongoing
19 SRM	Develop and implement waste prevention fund initiatives.	Environment (EAO)	2024 - 2029	Rubbish film festival and Relove Fashion funded for secondary schools. A primary stitch was a new initiative designed to allow primary school students explore sustainability while learning to sew. Brown bin caddy campaign Tinahely Show. PPN roadshow 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.	In Progress

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Appendix B: Arklow Decarbonising Zone Action Implementation Data for KPI 2025 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: • 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 & Transport	ADZ BE&T 9	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.	Mitigation		2025		2029+	Yes	In Progress
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	In Progress
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 microgeneration 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	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.	Mitigation	Q3	2024	Q4	2029	Yes	In Progress

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