

# Environment Services Training Group

LOCAL AUTHORITY CONFERENCE

2024

## Realising Climate Action in Local Authorities

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Regional Coordinator  
Eastern and Midlands CARO



# Local Authority Climate Action Plans



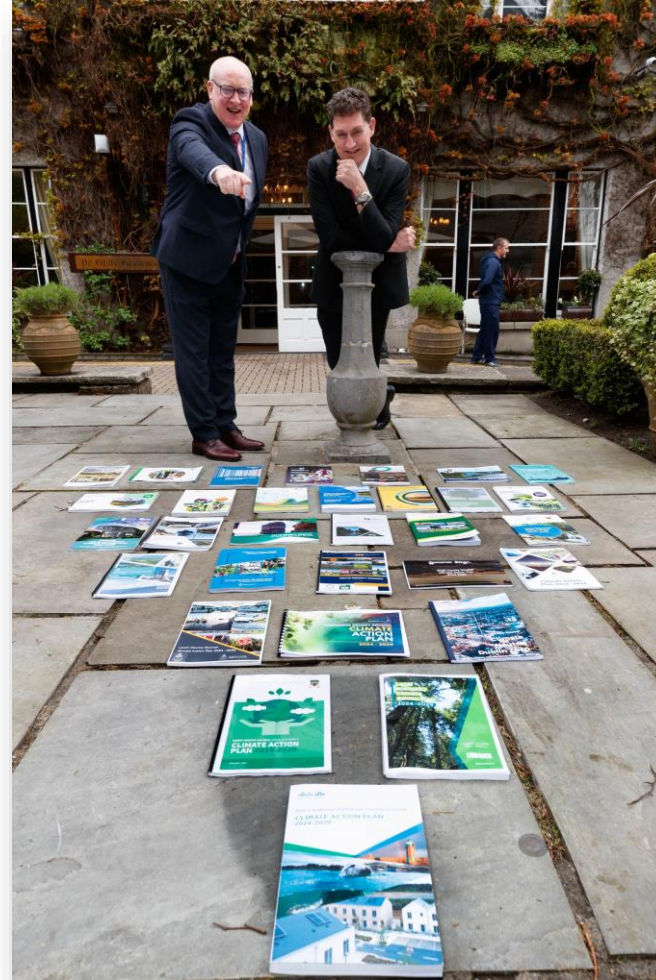
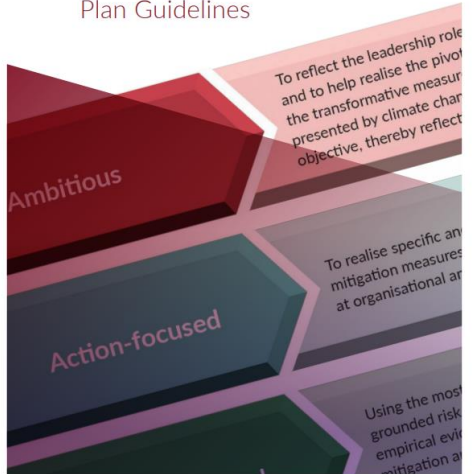
Number 32 of 2021

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021



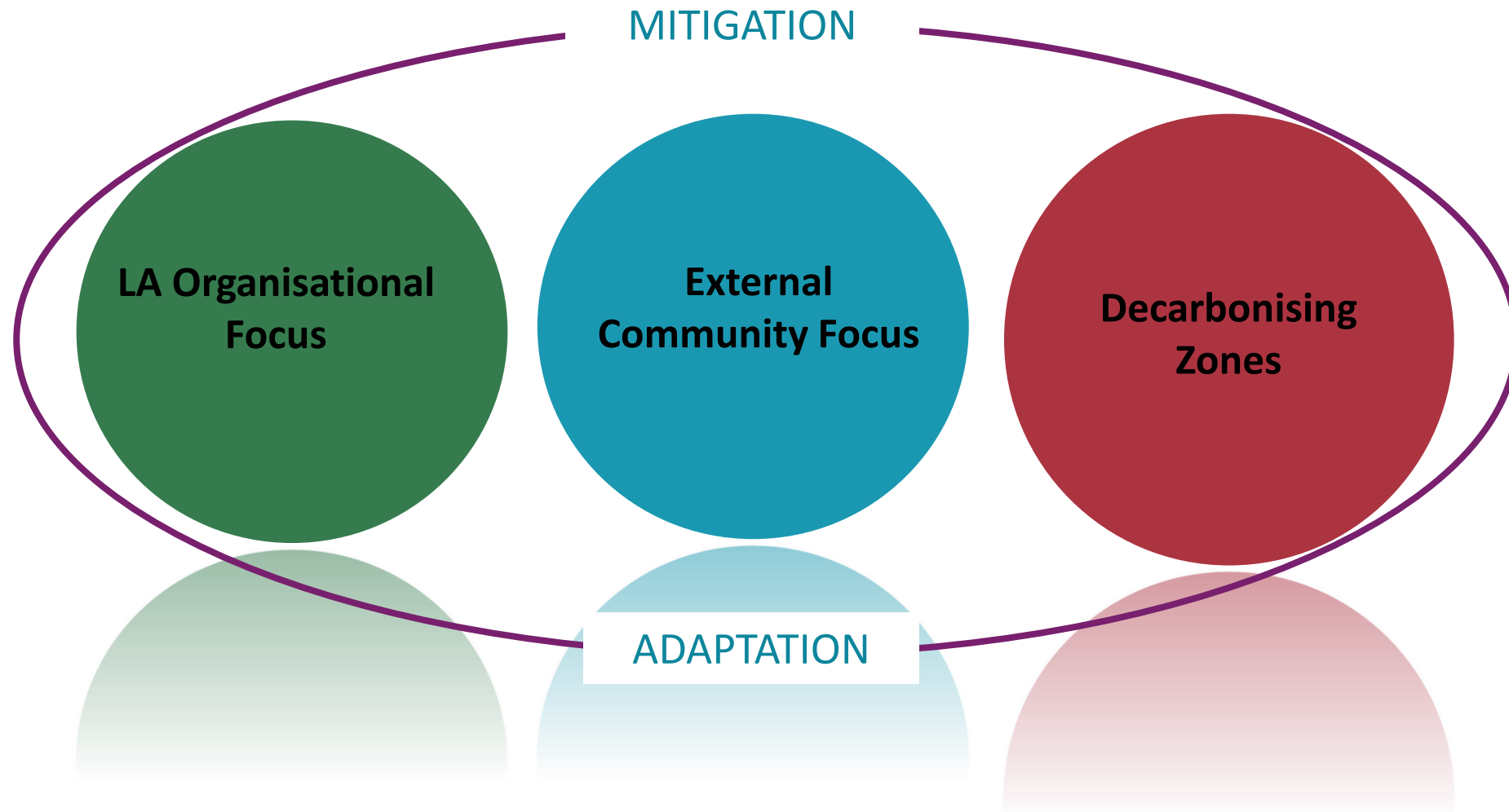
Riailtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines



- Bring forward **Adaptation & Mitigation** measures in a coherent manner.
- Provide a strong emphasis on a **place-based approach to climate action**
- Deliver and promote **evidence-based and integrated climate action** by way of adaptation and mitigation measures
- **Translate and provide strategic direction** at local and community levels on the delivery of the national climate objective
- Identify and deliver a **Decarbonising Zone to act a test bed for mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity** measures

# FOCUS: Local Authority Climate Action Plans



# Elements of the LACAPs

## Built Environment

Actions in bold indicate where MCC have direct control of implementation

Built Environment		DZ Objectives: 1. Retrofit local authority buildings across Monaghan Town and transition the local authority fleet to electric or other low-carbon transport options 2. Promote the retrofit of private buildings across Monaghan Town and ensure all new buildings are zero energy 3. Enhance the resilience of the built environment to climate impacts							
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	Partners	Timeframe	Dependencies	Objective Addressed	
BE.1	<b>Retrofit all social housing and local authority buildings in the Monaghan Town DZ to achieve a minimum Building Energy Rating of B2.</b>	Mitigation	Number of social housing units with a BER of B2	Housing	Finance, SEAI	Annual	None	1	
BE.2	<b>Assess the feasibility and install rooftop solar PV on social housing and local authority property across the Monaghan Town DZ</b>	Mitigation	Study Conducted	Housing, Corporate Assets	Climate Action Unit, SEAI	Annual	None	1	
BE.3	<b>Install rooftop solar PV on social housing and local authority property across the Monaghan Town DZ</b>	Mitigation	Number of PV projects implemented	Housing, Corporate Assets	None	Annual	BET.2	1	
BE.4	Promote retrofit to Building Energy Rating B2 for private and commercial properties across the Monaghan Town DZ	Mitigation	Number of engagement events held	Community, LEO	SEAI	Annual	None	2	
BE.5	<b>Undertake a study to identify vacant buildings in the DZ in support of the Town Centre First Policy</b>	Mitigation	Study conducted	Town Regeneration Officer	Department of Housing, Local Government, and	2024	None	1	
BE.6	<b>Conduct a Monaghan Town Centre Health Check and compare findings with the 2019 study</b>	Both	Survey conducted	Community Development	The Heritage Council	2025	None	1,2	

- Evidence Base informing actions

- Adaptation Baseline
- Mitigation Baselines

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- Decarbonising Zone(s)

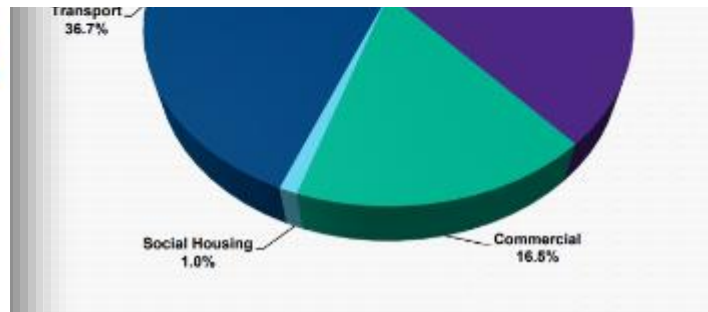
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- Framework of Actions

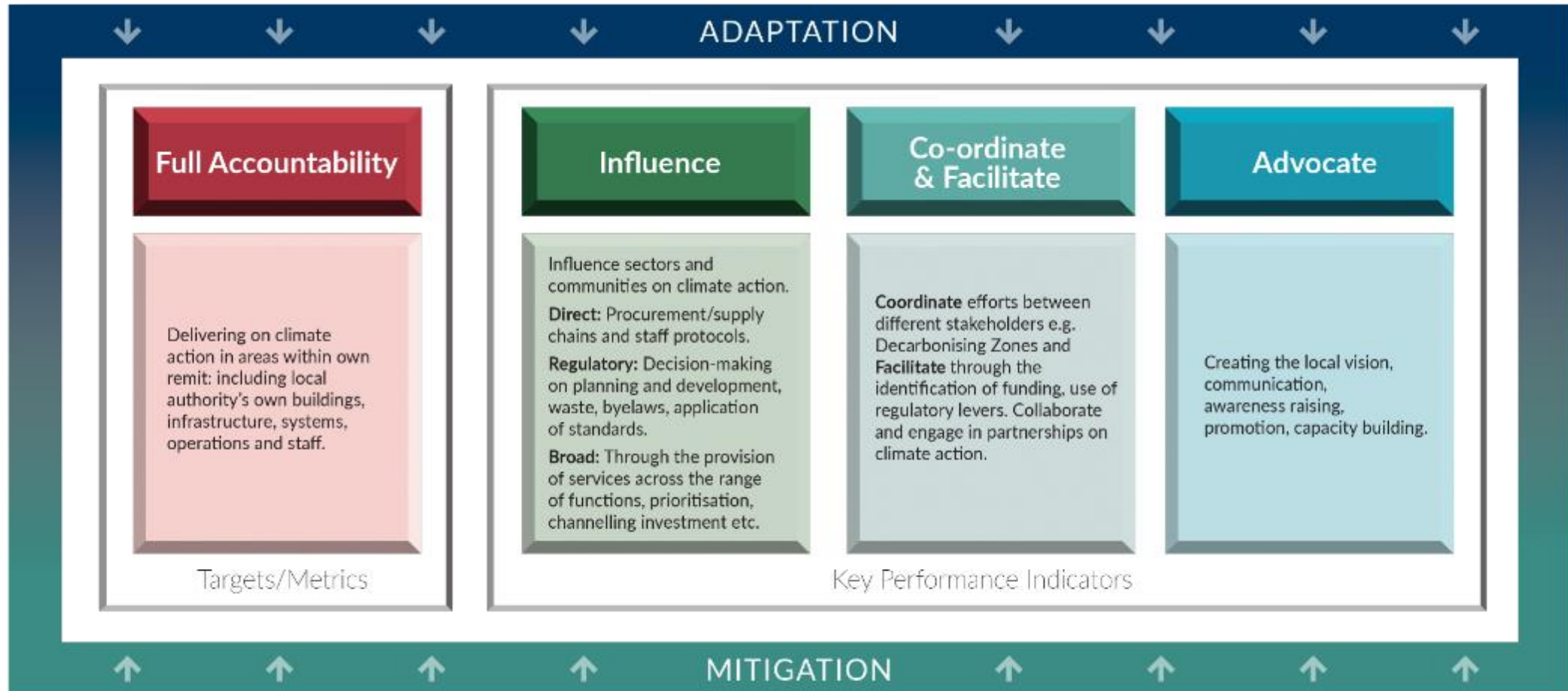
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- Approach to Implementation

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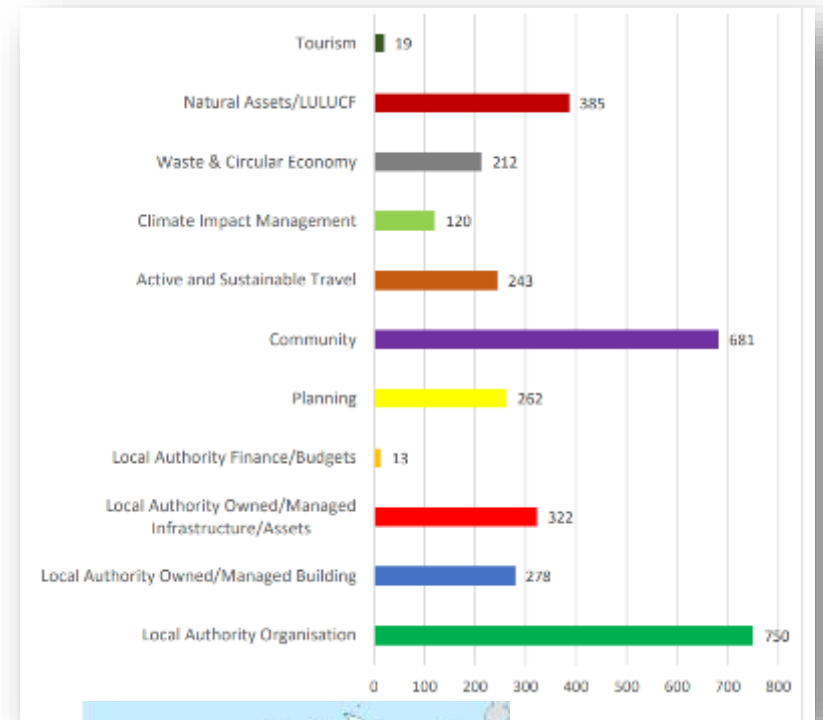
# Emphasis of Actions



# Typology of Actions

- 3935 Actions
- 44% Mitigation 14% Adaptation 42% Combined
- 44 Thematic areas
- 357 Stakeholders: national, regional, local
- 750 LA Organisational actions
- 41 DZ areas – 653 actions: 29 Urban, 6 Part Urban, 6 Rural

Significant activity – expansive influence



DZ locations

# Implementation

Know your impact

- Governance
- Mainstreaming
- Capacity Building & training
- Deliver Grey/Green Projects
- Stakeholder buy-in & Engagement
- Community Activation
- Source, spend & account climate value for money
- Monitoring & Tracking - quantitative & qualitative
- Reporting
- Be & stay accountable



C40 Cities Implementation Framework

# Mitigation



- LA Building Upgrades/ Retrofit
  - Pathfinder Programme





# Mitigation

95%



OPERATE ON DIESEL FUEL

- Fleet Decarbonisation
  - LG is largest fleet owner
  - c.6,500 fleet



Carlow County Council: 'Europe's first low carbon fire engine'

DLR



Galway City To Become First Local Authority To Eliminate Road Diesel In Larger Fleet



Kilkenny County Council



Offaly County Council

# Mitigation

- LA Social Housing New builds, Retrofits and upgrades



St Bricin's Park complex, Arbour Hill, Dublin

# Adaptation

- Curracloe Beach – Wexford



## **Aim:**

Restrict pedestrian access to dunes that are impacted by trampling

## **Works:**

Install chestnut fencing to allow sand build up naturally and marram grass recolonization

## **Funding:**

Local Biodiversity Action Fund (Dept of the Environment Climate and Communications)

# Adaptation

- Curracloe Beach – Wexford

**NEGI 2** Wexford County Council will develop and progress suitable coastal protection measures, as identified through the monitoring and inspection programmes for vulnerable areas of coast .....



**NEGI 16** Promote climate action projects that support and protect habitats .....

# Adaptation

- Nature based drainage solutions



Before



Carlow Town Urban Rainwater Gardens

After

# Adaptation



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council

## Morrison's Island Public Realm & Flood Defence Project



**OPW** Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works

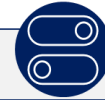


# Sustainable Travel



**Avoid** and reduce the need for car travel

- Avoid trips and reduce travel demand
- Integrated landuse planning and transport demand
- Transport demand management
- Remote working / car sharing



**Shift** to more sustainable modes

- Shift the way people and goods are moved
- Promote shift to public transport
- Promote active travel
- Reclaim road space



**Improve** energy efficiency of transport modes

- Support/adopt new and emerging technologies
- Renewable fuels including bio-fuels & renewable electricity
- Electric mobility (infrastructure)

Source: CARO



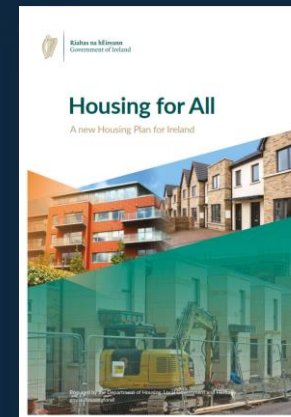
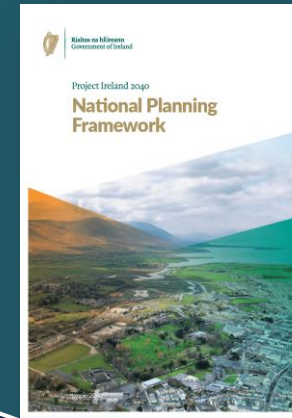
# Climate focus on Regeneration and Placemaking

- **CAP 23-24** – Deprioritise the car
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- **National Planning Framework /CDP**
    - ↑ Brownfield site development
- 

- **Housing for All** – increase housing supply
- 

- **Town Centre First** - increase attractiveness
- 





# Community Engagement and Activation



**Laois Climate Action Festival**  
6<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

**EVENTS BY**

COLM O'REGAN - ABBEYLEIX BOG PROJECT  
JBR ART HAUS - STREET FEAST - CLARA COOKS  
HEY PESTO - CIRCULAR FASHION IRELAND  
CLIMATE COCKTAIL CLUB -  
DUNMAISE THEATRE - AOIFE MUNN - WILDFOODMAY  
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY - BHRAT BRIDE  
BALLYKILCAVAN-PORTARLINTON ART COLLECTIVE  
LAOIS FOREST SCHOOL - CRAFTY DREAMERS  
JACINTA BAIRNS - ACTIVE HOPE - PORT SOUNDS  
FIORBHIA - THE CUBE-THE BRAVE LAB  
DUNMORE COUNTRY SCHOOL - HIGHER POTENTIAL

14 – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## MONAGHAN CLIMATE ACTION WEEK



Monaghan County Council Leading on Climate Action

Climate Action Monaghan

Carlow Climate Action week  
14th -20th October 2024

## “What Goes Around Comes Around”

Register for Our  
*Beginners Guide to the Circular Economy Webinar Today*

Tuesday,  
15th October 2024  
7.30 - 8.30 pm

What does the circular economy or circular living actually mean?  
What are we wasting & why does it matter?

Féile Pobal Inspioráide  
Aeráid na Gaillimhe  
12 – 15 Meán Fómhair 2024

Galway Climate Inspirations Festival  
12 – 15 September 2024

**Friday 13 Sept**

**As Tuallánas:**  
10:00 Panel: North Sea on 'What Type of Climate Action do you want?'  
11:00 Panel: Business Species Carbon Neutral by 2030?  
12:00 Comedy: Celia O'Neale's Climate Warrior  
13:00 Festival Club: Spoken Word & Storytelling with Beth & Ruthie  
14:00 Festival Club: Music with Fardkiss & Dub

**Middle Street:**  
10:00 Pop up Climate Theatre For Schools  
11:00 Sounds of Climate Change & Street Games  
**Westside:**  
10:00 Learning All about Climate Change  
11:00 Air-seal Spaces, an interactive walk

**Saturday 14 Sept**

**As Tuallánas:**  
10:00 Panel: Sponge City  
11:00 Panel: Smart & Climate Change  
12:00 John Spillane  
13:00 Festival Club: In WI Satby

**Middle Street:**  
10:00 Sounds of Climate Change  
11:00 Radical Music Cycle ride  
12:00 Pop up Climate Theatre  
13:00 Go long Day is Calling  
14:00 Vary: 100 years in commemoration with 100g Heather Hayes  
15:00 Playlist: Shreds: Baz Brothers Drumming

**Primrose:**  
10:00 Feast - A long table pop-up with Waterbury

**Dollyclegha Beach:** 10:00 Baffle 50 - Buster One Information social  
**Graffon Beach:** 10:00 Sand Dune Project info

**Sunday 15 Sept**

**Middle Street:** 11:00 Second Hand Market  
12:00 Sounds of Climate Change

**10:00 Learning workshop**  
**11:00 Live Music: St. Vincent Brass Band**  
**12:00 Live Music: La Inquisitor Babarona**

**10:00 Film Screening: A Note for Nature**

GalwayClimateFestival.ie



# Community Engagement and Activation

- Community Climate Action Programme
- C.640 community led projects
- 5 themes - energy, travel, food & waste, shopping & recycling, local enviro action.

**Castlebar Municipal District**  
**Series of Climate Action Talks**

**Community Climate Action Fund**  
**Information Evening**

The Community Climate Action Fund is due to launch in December.

Join us on Wednesday November 15th, 7-8:30pm at Lough Lannagh Swimming Pool, Castlebar (F23 A257)

Information Evening with Lorna Dennehy on how the fund can support small and large, rural and urban communities to take climate action at a local level.

Icons representing: COMMUNITY AND ENERGY PROJECTS, TRAVEL, FOOD & WASTE, SHOPPING AND RECYCLING, LOCAL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION.

Logos for: An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide 2040, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, Comhairle Contae Meath Co. Meath County Council.

**dlr**  
Comhairle Contae County Council

**Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP)**

Icons representing: COMMUNITY AND ENERGY PROJECTS, TRAVEL, FOOD & WASTE, SHOPPING AND RECYCLING, LOCAL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION.

**Small Scale**

- Moynalty Community Council
- Ratoath Athletics Club
- Castle Villa AFC
- Walterstown GFC
- Fr. Murphy's Athletics Club - Athboy
- Moynalty Tidy Towns
- Syddan GFC
- Wilkinstown Community Centre
- Silverlawn Residents Association
- Cortown GAA Club
- Meadowbank Hill Residents Association

**Medium Scale**

- St. Vincent's GFC
- Bective GFC
- Dunboyne GAA
- Drumree
- Kilmessan Hurling Club
- Bohermeen Community Centre
- Summerhill Community Centre
- Athboy Celtic AFC
- Skyrme GFC
- Boardsmill GAA

**Large Scale**

- Drewstown House
- Athboy Development Forum
- Trim Family Resource Centre
- Dunshaughlin Community Centre CLG

**€811,000 ALLOCATED TO 25 PROJECTS IN MEATH UNDER COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME**

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council

[www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

# Community Engagement and Activation



ENERGY • WATER • WASTE  
BIODIVERSITY • TRANSPORT





**CASE STUDY:**  
**MULLINGAR SHAMROCKS, CO. WESTMEATH**





**The challenge we faced:**

Mullingar Shamrocks has been a GAA Healthy Club since 2018 and we've seen the benefit of our Healthy Club projects for the club and community.

There's a huge overlap between health & wellbeing and the environment and we wanted to build on the success of our Healthy Club initiatives by taking on actions that would benefit the environment and make the club a safe, healthy and welcoming place for everyone from across the community.

**The solution we identified:**

We decided to develop our club for biodiversity and did this as part of a 2019 entry into a Tidy Towns Special Award Category for Sustainable Development, which to our great joy we won.

Our club is beside both Mullingar's beautiful River Brosna and the majestic Royal Canal. We developed a club Biodiversity Walking Route by the river and canal and installed seventeen vibrant, informative and colourful biodiversity signs to place along the route. Since then we've engaged in new biodiversity projects every year, working very closely with other community groups - especially Tidy Towns - as well as local schools.

**The actions we took:**

- We created two natural wildflower gardens that have attracted lots of butterflies and bees and planted native trees including Hazel, Mountain Ash, Crabapple, Alder and Birch.
- We had a naturally occurring solitary bee embankment in the club and we've supplemented that with new bug hotels and bat & bird boxes.
- We've gone herbicide-free by replacing herbicide with a vinegar, soap and salt solution and by using lawnmowers and trimmers to maintain woods.
- We commissioned a biodiversity and health & well-being mural for our club.
- We ran a competition for teenage team members to colour and name a humblebee biodiversity mascot for the club.
- We developed a Sensory Garden for the five senses as well as a Barefoot Sensory Walking Path.
- We worked with the local active retirement group, HSE frontline staff and Mullingar CBS TY students to plant pollinator-friendly window boxes.




# Preparedness, Emergency Response, Cleanup & Repair



# Policy Alignment

## National Climate Objective

*to reduce the extent of further global warming, pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy*

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2024

## Realising Climate Action in Local Authorities

# Thank You

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