

Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 -2029



SETTING THE SCENE FOR GOING GREEN
Environment and Climate Action



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



Contents

00	Executive Summary	01
01	Introduction.....	06
02	Stakeholders and Climate Action.....	17
03	Profile of the County Council.....	21
04	Evidence-based Climate Action	33
05	Framework of Climate Actions.....	42
06	Tipperary Decarbonising Zone.....	49
07	Implementation, Funding and Reporting	68
08	Appendix 1 Climate Actions.....	73

Glossary of Acronyms

AA	Appropriate Assessment	LAWPRO	Local Authority Water Programme
AIPP	All-Ireland Pollinator Plan	LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
BCP	Broadband Connection Point	LEADER	LEADER Programme for Rural Development
BEI	Baseline Emissions Inventory	LEO	Local Enterprise Office
BER	Building Energy Rating	LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
CARO	Climate Action Regional Office	LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
CCAF	Community and Climate Action Fund	MD	Municipal District
CCMA	County and City Management Association	NBS	Nature-based Solutions
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment	NDCA	National Dialogue on Climate Action
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	NTA	National Transport Authority
DECA	Delivering Effective Climate Action	NTDC	North Tipperary Development Company
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communities	OPW	Office of Public Works
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	PPN	Public Participation Network
DoT	Department of Transport	PV	Photovoltaic
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
DTCAGSM	Department of Tourism, Culture, Art, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media	SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
DZ	Decarbonising Zone	SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
EMRA	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	SECAP	Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	SMART	Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time-related
ESB	Electricity Supply Board	SPC	Strategic Policy Committee
ETB	Education and Training Board	STDC	South Tipperary Development Company
EU	European Union	SEC	Sustainable Energy Community
EV	Electric Vehicle	TCC	Tipperary County Council
GAA	Gaelic Athletics Association	TEA	Tipperary Energy Agency
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland	ICT	Information and Communications Technology
GWh	Giga Watt Hour	TII RDO	Transport infrastructure Ireland – Regional Design Office
HVO	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil	TTCU	Tipperary Transport Co-ordination Unit
IBF	Irish Bioeconomy Foundation	TUS	Technological University of the Shannon
JTF	Just Transition Fund	UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
KWH	Kilowatt Hours	ZEVI	Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure
ICT	Information and Communication Technology		
KtCO₂eq	Kilotonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent		
KPI	Key Performance Indicator		
LACAP	Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029		
LASNTG	Local Authority Services National Training Group		

Executive Summary



Framing Our Ambition

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time, because in order to mitigate its effects, we must reduce or prevent the emissions linked to our daily human activities.



The most immediate climate change risks to Ireland, and Tipperary are predominantly those associated with changes in extremes, such as floods, precipitation and storms. The need for an urgent response to combat global temperature rise is reflected in international policies devoted to finding solutions to both reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), and planning for and addressing the inevitable impacts and risks of climate change (adaptation). The context for these strengthened policy responses is the legally binding Paris Agreement 2015 which strives for climate action to avoid dangerous climate change by:

- i. holding global average temperature increase to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and,
- ii. increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience.

Tipperary County Council is committed to this challenge, and though its partnership with the Tipperary Energy Agency and other stakeholders is already an early leader in collaborative and positive climate action, and by the development of this Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 (LACAP) is further embedding climate action across its service delivery. The LACAP has been prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, 2023. Each LACAP will drive the adaptation and mitigation measures required at local level, and enable each local authority to;

- » actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures,
- » assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels,
- » identify and deliver a Decarbonising Zone within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures in a specifically defined area through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.

The National Climate Action Plan 2023 required each local authority to prepare and adopt their LACAP by February 2024, part of a sustained and planned response at local and community levels, to support the delivery of the National Climate Objective i.e. achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050 a Climate Resilient, Biodiversity Rich, Environmentally Sustainable and Carbon Neutral Economy.

This LACAP has been prepared in close collaboration with a range of local authority, community and sectoral stakeholders including; elected representatives, senior management and staff of the County Council, the Public Participation Network, the Climate Action Regional Office, adjoining local authorities, business and community stakeholders and members of our communities.

An assessment of the climate risks facing Tipperary, and details greenhouse gas emissions for both the Council and the county are outlined, and have informed action development. 100 ambitious and innovative climate actions, including the Council's commitment to achieving its own emissions reductions (51%) and energy efficiency (50%) targets are set out. Action delivery will mainstream climate action across Council services, and support a collaborative move towards community and sectoral emissions reductions, biodiversity enhancement and climate action etc.

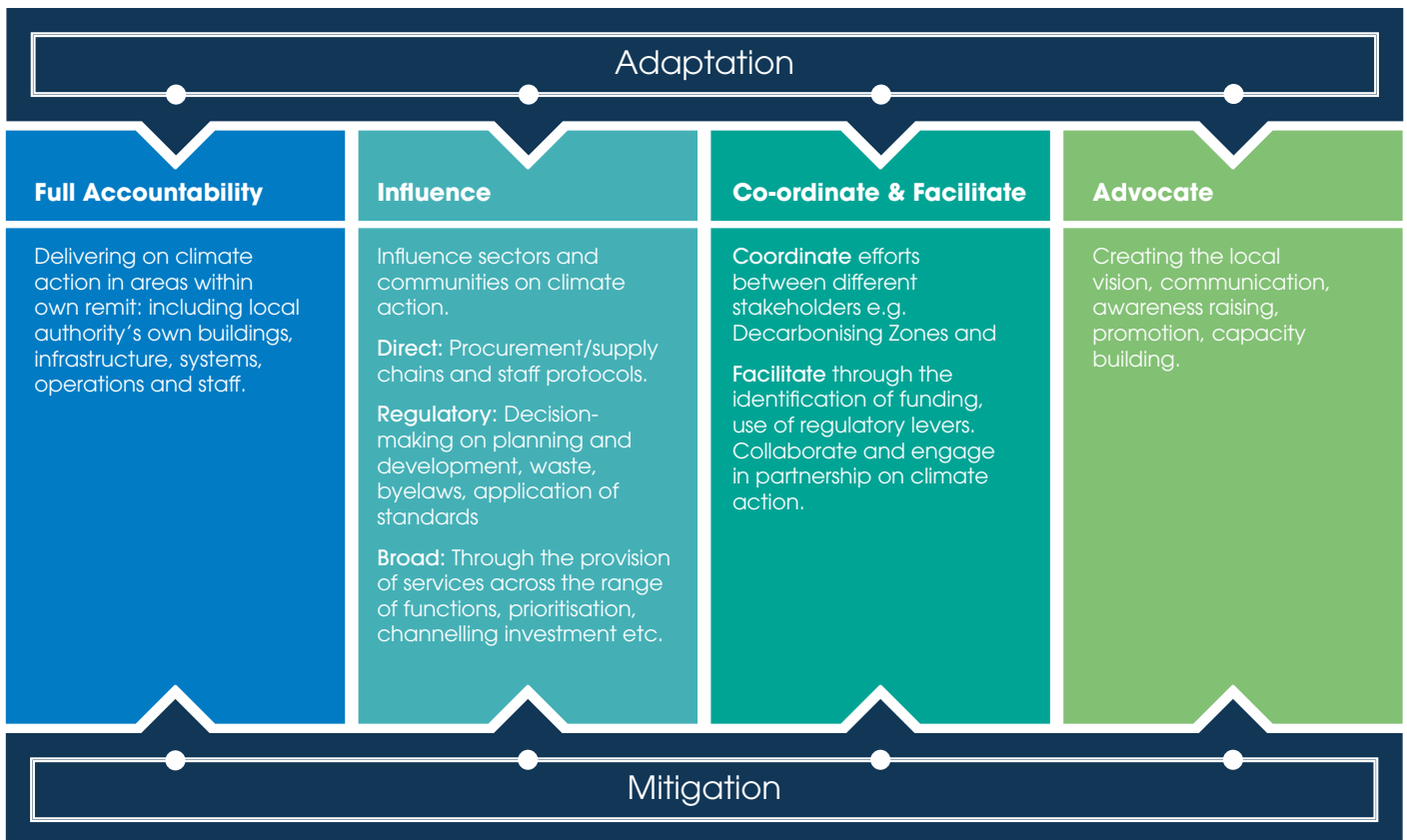
Climate actions are grouped under five key themes:



“

‘It is time for a climate ambition supernova in every country, city, and sector.’

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General – COP 28



Scope of Tipperary County Council in Climate Action

Role of Tipperary County Council in Climate Action

Ireland has committed to transitioning to a climate neutral economy by 2050¹. This means removing the same amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere that we release. Therefore, every organisation and sector have a duty to reduce their own energy consumption to slow climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

The Council has unique capabilities to deliver on a wide range of climate policy objectives. In order to clarify its role and scope in terms of climate action the Council has defined its areas and levels of responsibility:

Full Accountability: The Council has full accountability for climate action within its own organisation and operations, to provide for emission reductions, energy use reductions, and in building resilience to the negative impact of climate change at an operational level.

Influence: Through the range of services and functions provided, the Council can in-

fluence sectors, businesses, communities and individuals in the delivery of local climate action.

Co-ordinate and Facilitate: The Council can coordinate and facilitate, by working with sectors, business and communities and other groups bringing together stakeholders in partnership to achieve successful projects and outcomes which may not otherwise occur.

Advocate: The Council can advocate on climate action through raising awareness, communicating, informing, and engaging in open dialogues on climate related issues and responses.

Whilst the Council has an important role in climate action, it is not responsible for other sectors, for example business and enterprise, agriculture, renewable energy, transport etc in meeting their own national emissions reductions targets set out by the National Climate Action Plan.

¹ gov.ie - Climate Action Plan 2023 (www.gov.ie)

Decarbonising Zone

In accordance with the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines a Decarbonising Zone has been identified in Tipperary centred around the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen, Thurles. This area also incorporates a large rural hinterland with many villages and communities, and is all located within the European Union Just Transition Fund area with the resultant opportunities that this offers to the area through funding supports. It is the purpose of the designation to help demonstrate, through stakeholder investment and support, decarbonising and positive climate action at a local and community level. The vision for the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone is:

'A unique, thriving low carbon rural community in a biodiversity rich landscape. Built on a foundation of sustainable bioeconomy, land use diversification, energy efficient and biodiverse agriculture, renewable energy, eco-tourism and connected, equal and vibrant communities. Where communities and businesses will be empowered to adapt to the impacts of climate change

and embrace methods and technologies to reduce Green House Gas emissions.'

A range of potential climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures are identified for the area and a list of opportunities and actions are set out to help deliver on the vision for the area.

The Mid-Tipperary Decarbonisation Zone is the only inland and rural decarbonising zone in the country, and opportunities and actions are therefore focused on the bioeconomy, rural and agricultural diversification, land use change and biodiversity, as well as co-benefits such as building retrofitting, renewable energy, rural transport, forestry and tourism.

The Council will seek, though the delivery of its own services, to collaborate with stakeholders and the community, to help co-ordinate opportunities for low-emissions, progressive and sustainable development with creativity and innovation in delivering climate action and the associated economic and social benefits.

Format of the Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan

The Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan is set out in seven sections:

- » Introduction
- » Stakeholders and Climate Action
- » Profile of the County Council
- » Evidence-Based Climate Action
- » Framework of Climate Actions
- » Tipperary Decarbonising Zone
- » Implementation, Funding and Reporting

The Climate Actions of the Council are attached as Appendix 1.

There are Supplementary Reports providing baseline data¹:

- » Climate Change Risk Assessment for Tipperary (Tipperary County Council, 2023)
- » Baseline Emissions Inventory for Tipperary (Tipperary County Council, 2023)
- » Socio-Economic Profile and Baseline Emissions Inventory for the Decarbonising Zone (Tipperary County Council, 2023)
- » Environmental Report in accordance with the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004 as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011) for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- » Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report pursuant to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 was made at the Plenary meeting of Tipperary County Council on the 12th of February 2024 and will remain in place for a period of 5 years.

¹ Available to view on the website at www.tipperarycoco.ie/climateaction



01

Introduction



1.1 Overview of climate change, its significance, impacts and risks for Ireland

We are now all familiar with the term 'Climate Change' and know that it means a change in the usual weather found in a place.

This could be a change in how much rain a place usually gets in a year, or it could be a change in a place's usual temperature for a month or season. We notice that the Earth's climate is changing, with temperatures going up in the last 100 years or so.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are the most significant contributor to climate change, and in particular to an increase in the earth's temperature. The atmospheric concentrations of the main GHGs i.e. carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide have remained relatively stable for at least 800,000 years until the start of the industrial revolution. Since then, they have increased at an unprecedented rate reaching levels that have not existed for likely millions of years.

Scientists think that the Earth's temperature will keep going up. This would cause more snow and ice to melt. Oceans would rise higher. Some places would get hotter. Other places might have colder winters with more snow. Some places might get more rain. Other places might get less rain. Some

places might have stronger winds.

Met Eireann have identified that temperatures have risen in Ireland, with 2023 being the warmest year on record, see Figure 1.1 below, and they project that mean annual temperatures will continue to rise in Ireland.

The EPA say that climate projections in Ireland over this century indicate changes in wind speeds and storm tracks; increased likelihood of river and coastal flooding; changes in distribution of plant and animal species and in the timing of lifecycle events of native species; water stress for crops, pressure on water supply and adverse impacts on water quality and negative impacts on human health and wellbeing.

Organisations, sectors and every citizen in Ireland have a duty¹ to act to reduce carbon emissions and increase carbon sinks. Ireland has committed to transitioning to a climate neutral economy by 2050. This means removing the same amount of GHGs from the atmosphere that we release.

¹ gov.ie - Climate Action Plan 2023 (www.gov.ie)

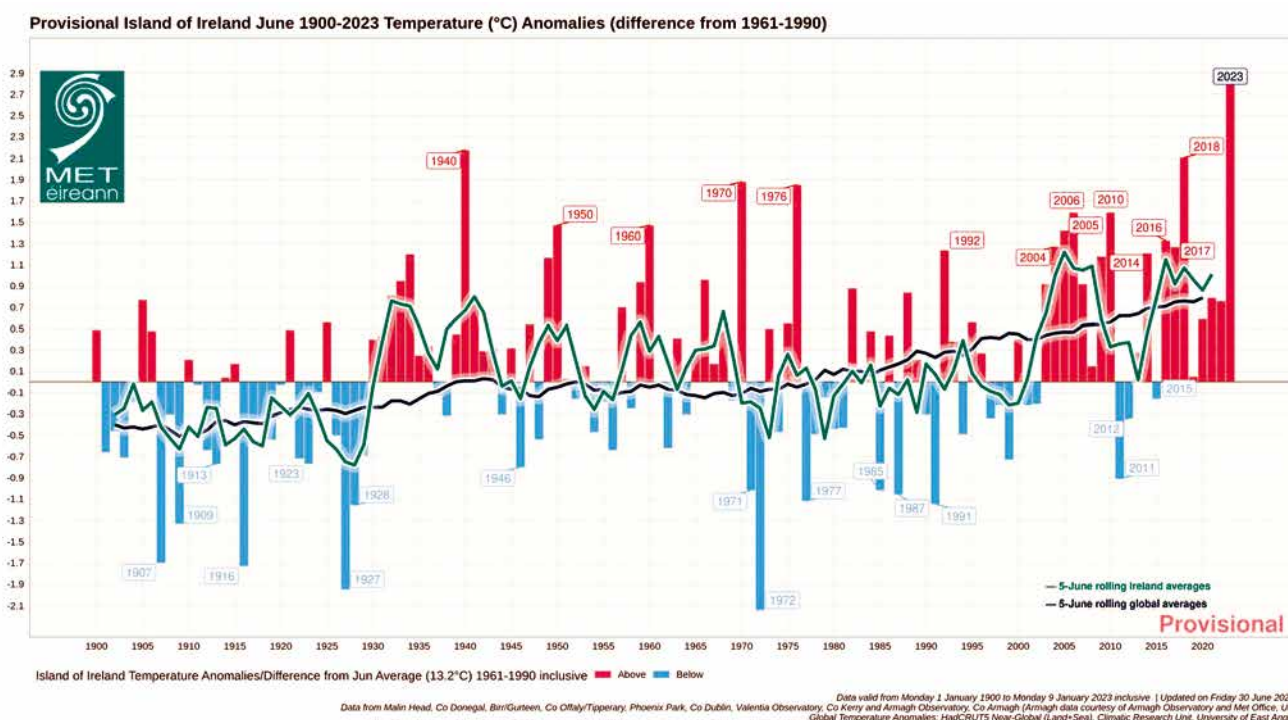


Figure 1.1: Ireland 1900 – 2023 Temperature (°C) Anomalies, Annual Climate Statement for Ireland 2023 (Met Eireann)

The Six Vital High Impact Sectors

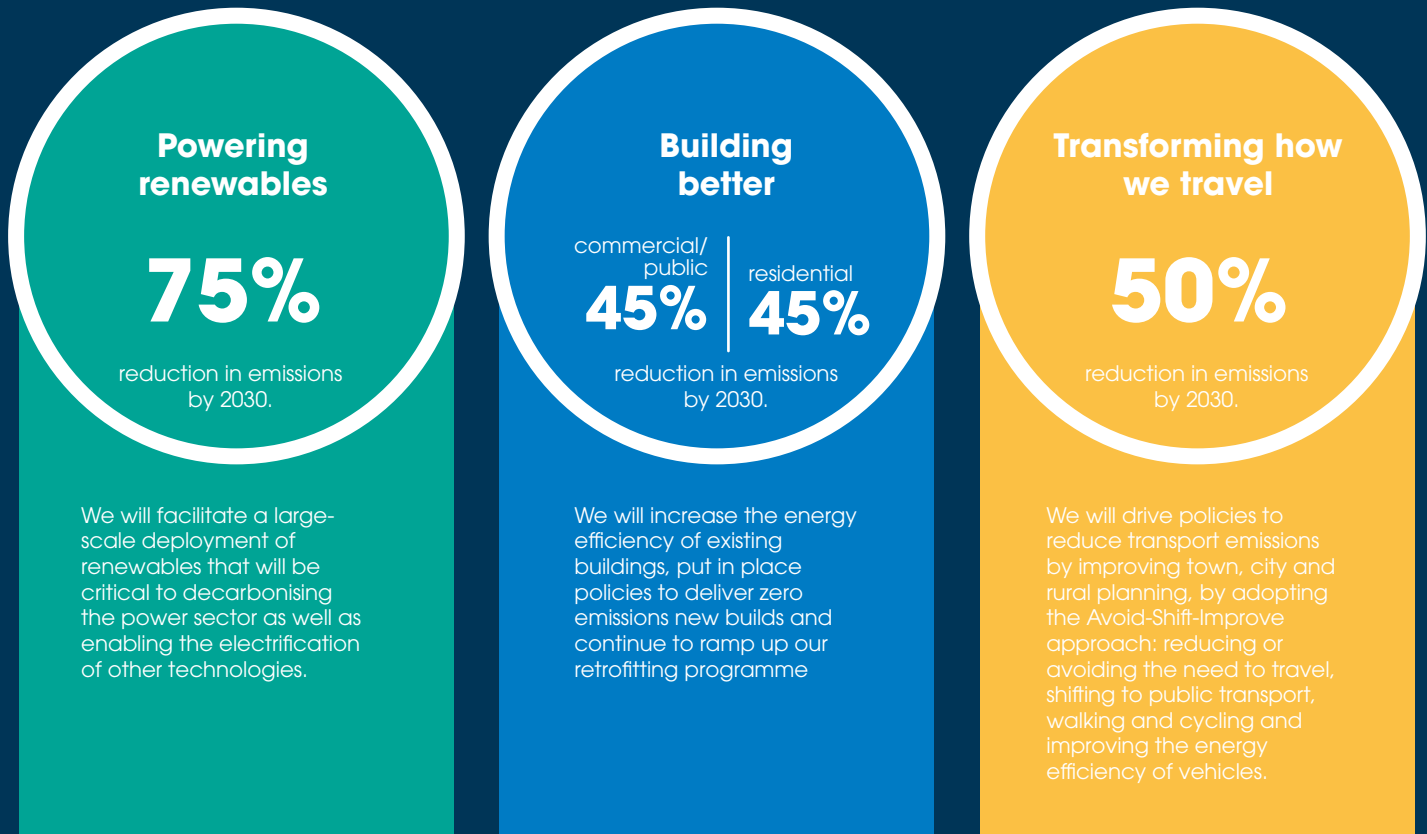


Figure 1.2: National Climate Action Plan 2023 – High Impact sectors (Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications)

1.2 Climate Action Policy and Context

1.2.1 Climate Action Legislative Framework

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 was signed into law in December 2015. The Act provided for the establishment of a national framework with the aim of achieving transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. In July 2021, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 (the Act) was signed into law. Relevant aspects of the Act are:

- » A national climate objective, which commits to pursue and achieve no later than 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally-sustainable and climate-neutral economy,
- » The Government will determine, following consultation, how to apply the

carbon budget across the relevant sectors, and what each sector will contribute in a given five-year period,

- » Actions for each sector will be detailed in the National Climate Action Plan¹ which must be updated annually,
- » Local Authorities must prepare individual Climate Action Plans which will include both mitigation and adaptation measures and will be updated every five years. Local Authority Development Plans must be aligned with their Climate Action Plan, and,
- » Public Bodies will be obliged to take account of Climate Action Plans in the performance of their functions.

The National Climate Action Plan dated 2023, built on the previous climate action plans and is the framework through which the government intends to meet the legally-binding, economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings and the emissions re-

¹ gov.ie – Climate Action Plan 2023 (www.gov.ie)

Making family farms more sustainable

25%

reduction in emissions by 2030.

We will support farmers to continue to produce world-class, safe and nutritious food while also seeking to diversify income through tillage, energy generation and forestry.

Greening business and enterprise

35%

reduction in emissions by 2030.

We're changing how we produce, consume, and design our goods and services by breaking the link between fossil fuels and economic progress. Decarbonising industry and enterprise is key to Ireland's economy and future competitiveness.

Changing our land use

exact reduction target for this sector is yet to be determined.

The first phase of land use review will tell us how we are using our land now. Then, we can map, with evidence, how it can be used most effectively to capture and store carbon and to produce better, greener food and energy

ductions targets set out in the Act. The Climate Action Plan 2023 set out six vital high impact sectors:

For Local Authorities, including Tipperary County Council, the key aspects of the National Climate Action Plan 2023 are:

- » To achieve a 51% reduction in local authority own GHG emissions and a 50% improvement in local authority own energy efficiency by 2030
- » Delivery of Local Authority Climate Action Plans by February 2024
- » To undertake climate related training and upskilling for public sector employees
- » To fully implement green public procurement of goods and services.

Ireland's national strategy for climate adaptation is laid out in the National Adaptation Framework, which was approved by Government in December 2017, and was published and laid before the Oireachtas

on 19 January 2018 in line with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. The National Adaptation Framework required that each local authority should make and adopt local adaptation strategies. Actions set out are categorised into four themes to foster collaboration and synergies between government agencies and local authorities.

- » Natural and Cultural Capital
- » Critical Infrastructure
- » Water Resource and Flood Risk Management
- » Public Health.

The Tipperary County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024 was prepared in accordance with the National Adaptation Framework and has informed the preparation of this Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 (LACAP).

1.2.2 Mitigation and Adaptation

Mitigation and adaptation are the two major prongs of climate action: Mitigation is about changing how we live, move, consume and manufacture so as to reduce and/or

eliminate the production of harmful GHGs, and Adaptation seeks to help people adjust to the effects of climate change (e.g. from extreme weather events, drought etc). The LACAP and its actions sets out a framework for both mitigation and adaptation.

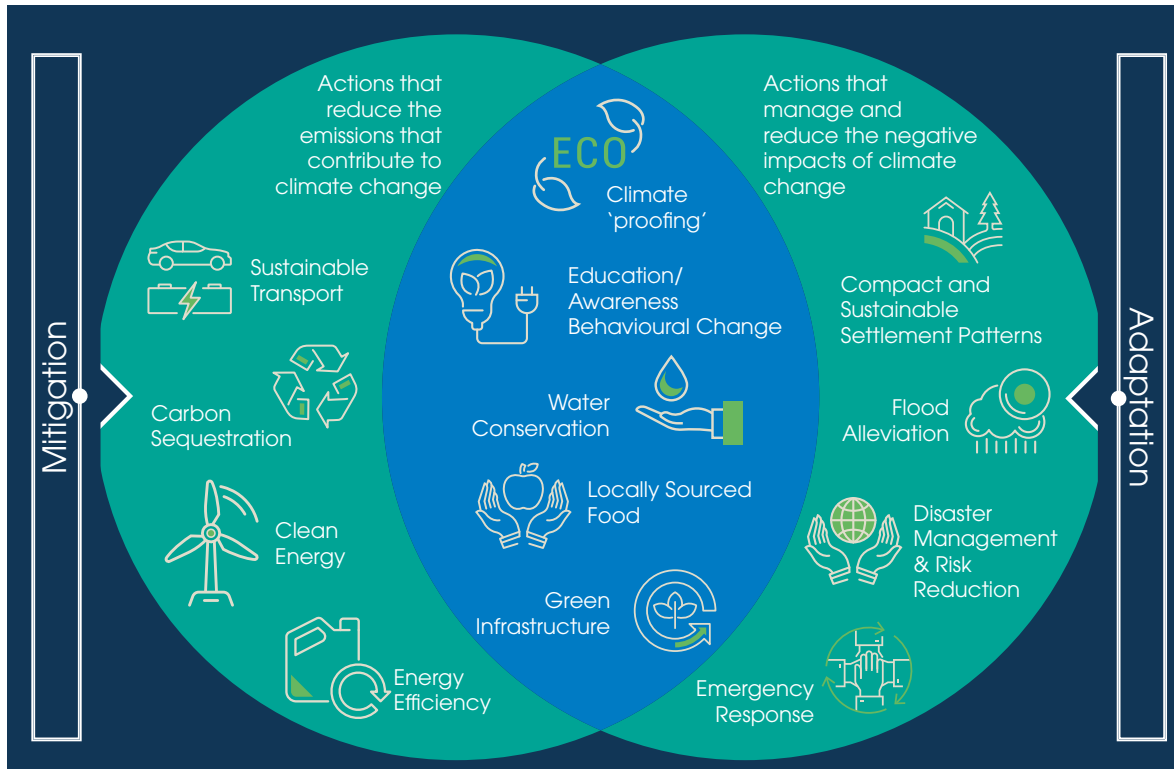


Figure 1.3: Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies

1.2.3 Sustainable Development Goals

The 2018 – 2020 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan acknowledges that local government “has a crucial role to play in translating national policies into tangible practical actions that can help to embed the SDG objectives into individual and communities’ behaviours and goals”. Ireland’s Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022 – 2024, intends to build on the role of local government in Ireland and incorporates specific actions to do so which include:

- » Showcasing, sharing and building on existing initiatives
- » Capacity building and awareness raising
- » Embedding the SDGs in Governance and reporting frameworks

- » Incorporating the SDGs within local planning frameworks
- » Community Engagement.

Local authorities are recognised by the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030’s¹ as one of nine “Major Groups”, which play a crucial role in sustainable development, and Agenda 2030 also highlights the particular role of local authorities and communities in sustainable urban development. Goal 13 of the UNSDGs calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. It is intrinsically linked to all 16 of the other goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius.

The SDGs and the role of the Council have been considered in the development of the Council’s climate actions as set out in this LACAP.

¹ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Department of Economic and Social Affairs (un.org)

“

local government “has a crucial role to play in translating national policies into tangible practical actions that can help to embed the SDG objectives into individual and communities’ behaviours and goals”

2018 – 2020 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan



Figure 1.4 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (United Nations 2015)

1.2.4 Public Sector Duty

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (the Public Sector Duty) is set out in section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. The Tipperary County Council Corporate Plan sets out the Council's commitment to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect human rights of staff and service users.

The LACAP has been prepared having consideration to the Public Sector in the delivery of climate action for both our colleagues and staff and those who avail of the services and functions of the Council.

1.3 Scope and Influence of Tipperary County Council

County councils are already taking a range of actions across their functions and services to tackle climate change, and have unique capabilities to deliver on a wide range of climate policy objectives, as outlined in 'A Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland (Climate Action Regional Office, 2020)'.

Councils have a breadth of technical expertise, experience and networks to develop and deliver strategies and solutions for low carbon towns, cities, rural areas and regions. These capabilities will also underpin climate adaptation to ensure our places are more resilient to climate change, and to identify opportunities and possibilities to reimagine our county to better serve our communities into the future.

However, whilst Councils have a strategic and important role in climate action, they are not responsible for other sectors, for example business and enterprise, agriculture, renewable energy, transport etc in their meeting their own emissions reductions targets (as set by the National Climate Action Plan).

To clarify its role and scope in terms of climate action, the Council has defined its areas and levels of responsibility:

Full Accountability: Local authorities have full accountability for climate action within their own organisation and operations to provide for emission reductions, energy use reductions, and in building resilience to the negative impact of climate change at an operational level.

Influence: Through the range of services and functions provided, local authorities can influence sectors, businesses, communities and individuals in the delivery of local climate action.

Co-ordinate and Facilitate: Local authorities can coordinate and facilitate by working with sectors, business and communities and other groups bringing together stakeholders in partnership to achieve successful projects and outcomes which may not otherwise occur.

Advocate: Local authorities can advocate on climate action through raising awareness, communicating, informing, and engaging in dialogues on climate related issues and responses.

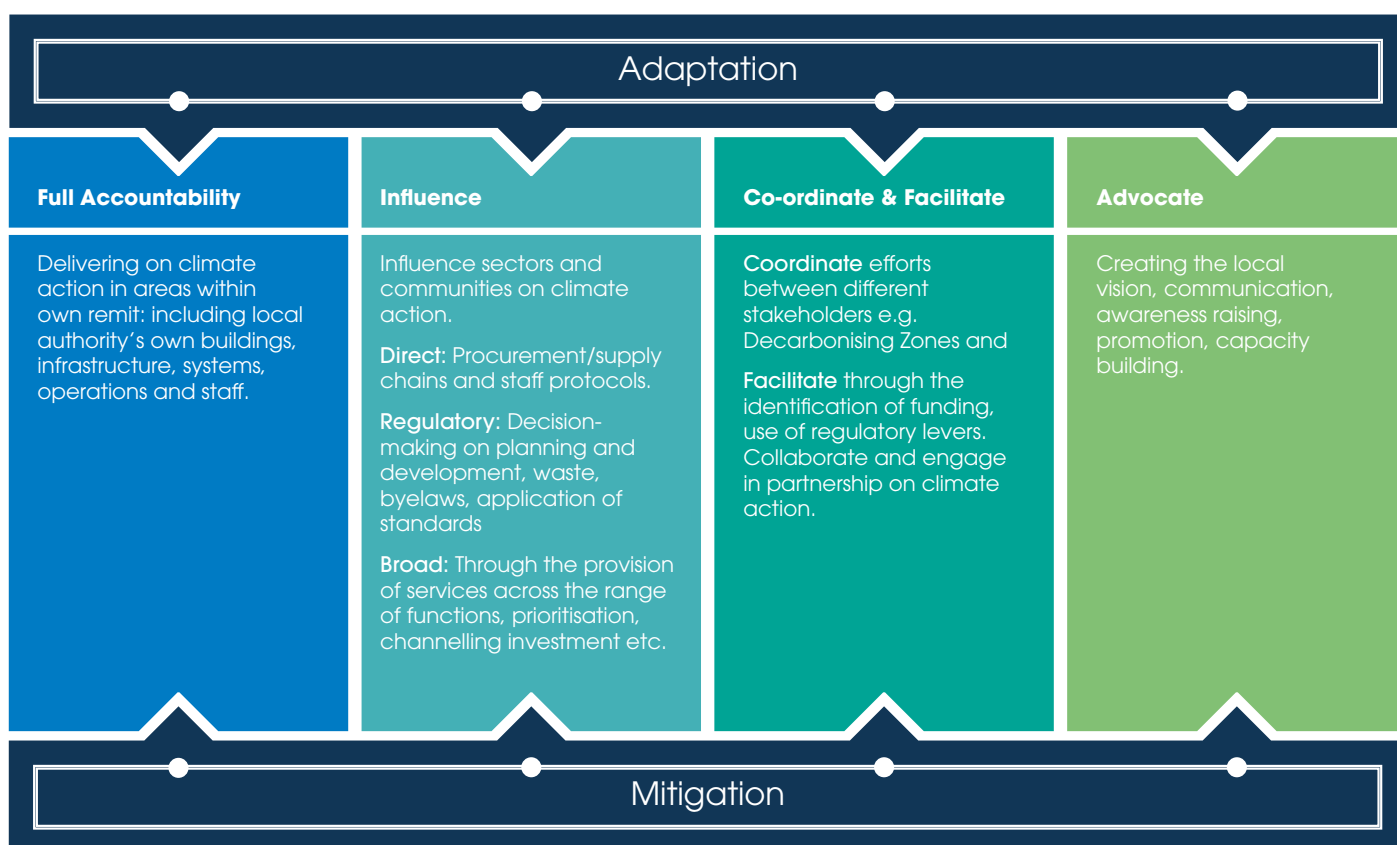


Figure 1.5: The Council's role and scope in Climate Action (Climate Action Regional Office)

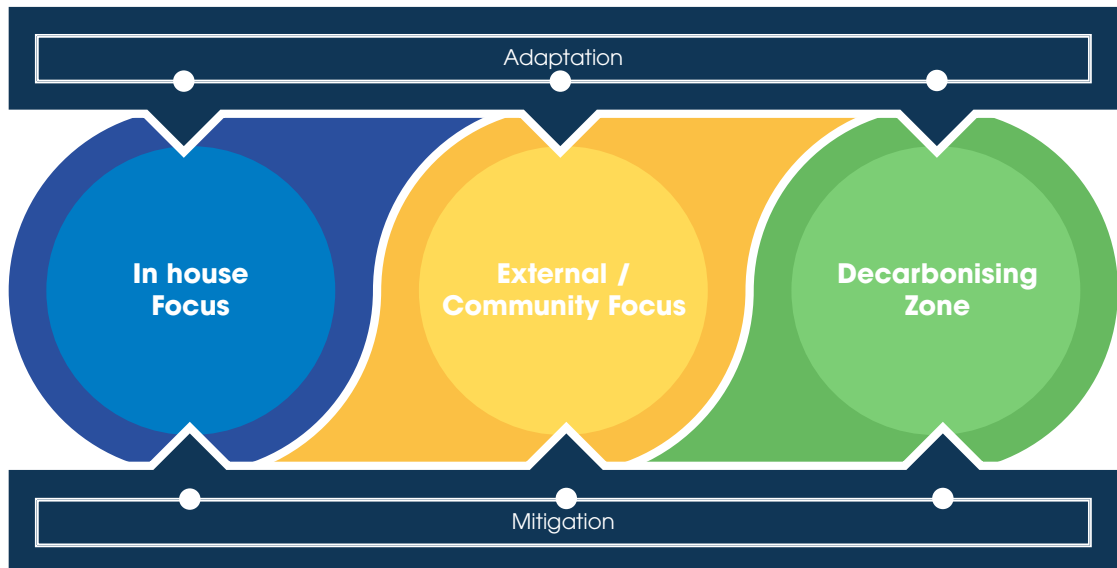


Figure 1.6: Scope of LACAP (Climate Action Regional Office)

The LACAP sets out to deliver the following:

1. To identify how the Council will achieve emissions reductions and energy efficiency across the delivery of its own functions and services (In-house focus).
2. To identify how the Council will influence, coordinate and facilitate, and advocate for climate action in other sectors and communities through the delivery of its services (External focus).
3. To identify a 'Decarbonising Zone' (DZ) with vision and collaborative 'Opportunities' and 'Actions' for the area.

The actions included in this LACAP, aim to equip citizens and other stakeholders, with information to make informed decisions, thereby assisting and empowering them to play their part in the county's transition to a low carbon and climate resilient one. By communicating effectively with citizens, businesses and other sectors about climate action, there is real opportunity to create long-term, positive behavioural change which will have a significant impact on reducing both GHG emissions and the impacts of climate change to 2030, 2050 and beyond.

1.4 Need for the Local Authority Climate Action Plan

The Act required each local authority to make a LACAP in line with the following:

- » Within 12 months upon the request from the Minister (24th February 2023)
- » Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures to be included
- » The LACAP was to be adopted by the elected members of the local authority within the 12-month time-frame (i.e. by 23rd February 2024)
- » The first LACAP and subsequent iterations would have a duration of 5 years.

Ministerial Guidelines – the Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines of DECC, 2023 (hereafter referred to as 'the Guidelines')



were published to support local authorities in respect of the content and preparation of their LACAPs. This LACAP has been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines¹.

The LACAP was made at the Plenary meeting of Tipperary County Council on the 12th of February 2024 and will remain in place for a period of 5 years.

¹ gov.ie – Guidelines for Local Authority Climate Action Plans (www.gov.ie).



1.5 Our Ambition for Climate Action

This LACAP was prepared under the direction of the Council's 'Environment and Climate Action' Directorate. To support preparation of the LACAP, and to co-ordinate and deliver on climate action, a new governance structure was created within the Council. In spring 2023, a dedicated Climate Action Office was formed under the vision 'Setting the Scene for Going Green', representing a whole of Council and collaborative approach.

This office comprises of a Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer, under the management of a Senior Executive Officer

and Director of Services. The role of this office is to coordinate and mainstream climate action into the services of the Council, monitor the implementation of the actions of the LACAP and to coordinate the reporting and evaluation of the LACAP following its approval by the elected members.

The Climate Action Office works collaboratively with a new Climate Action Steering Group (Directors of Services) and a Climate Action Team (Heads of Services, key personnel and representatives of the Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA)).

1.6 Structure and Layout

This LACAP is set out across the following chapters:

- » Introduction
- » Stakeholders and Climate Action
- » Profile of the County Council
- » Evidence-Based Climate Action
- » Framework of Climate Actions
- » Tipperary Decarbonising Zone
- » Implementation, Funding and Reporting

There are 100 Climate Actions, for ease of reading these are outlined in the Appendix.

There are three supplementary reports available to support the LACAP, these are available as supplementary reports on the Council's Climate Action website¹:

- » Climate Change Risk Assessment for Tipperary (Tipperary County Council, 2023)
- » Baseline Emissions Inventory for Tipperary (Tipperary County Council, 2023)
- » Socio-Economic Profile and Baseline Emissions Inventory for the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonisation Zone (Tipperary County Council, 2023)

¹ Available to view on the website at www.tipperarycoco.ie/climateaction

1.7 SMART Climate Actions

In tailoring the climate actions, the 'SMART' approach to their development was applied whereby actions are:

- » **Specific:** Define the action as clearly as possible to avoid ambiguity and to set up for measurement more readily.
- » **Measurable:** Clarify the action and emphasise in a manner that enables the action to be measured.
- » **Assigned:** Actions need to be carried out by someone. It is therefore crucial to assign each action to a lead department that can be held accountable for timely implementation of the action. This makes follow up easier and provides clarity where more than one department of the local authority is required for implementation to deliver the action.
- » **Realistic:** Setting vague or impossible actions will distract from the progress of implementation. Ensure that actions are ambitious but realistic.
- » **Time-bound:** Set a time scale for the completion of each action. This will be linked to implementation and progress reporting.

1.8 Environmental Assessment

The LACAP has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. The purpose of this SEA was to identify, assess, and mitigate potential likely significant environmental effects associated with the LACAP, and integrate environmental considerations into the preparation, adoption and implementation of the LACAP.

The Plan has also been subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with

the requirements of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The purpose of the AA was to identify, assess and mitigate potential significant adverse effects on designated European sites.

In this respect, SEA and AA processes were carried out through the plan-making process and all environmental reports available on the Tipperary County Council website.

1.9 Just Transition

The Act explicitly recognises the requirement for a Just Transition to a climate neutral economy'. This is in response to concerns for how different groups in society are affected by climate action measures. Making sure that the transformation of economy and society is just and inclusive is crucial to maintaining societal support for the disruptive measures that will be needed to achieve national, EU and international climate goals.

The Irish Government is committed to a 'Just Transition' as part of its climate action programme, with the purpose to provide consistent national policy direction for how Councils can deliver their services.

The national Climate Action Plan 2023 sets out a Just Transition Framework to guide the approach to implementing climate action policies. The framework consists of four principles:

1. An integrated, structured, and evidence-based approach to identify and plan a response to just transition requirements.
2. People are equipped with the right skills to be able to participate in and benefit from the future net zero economy.

3. The costs are shared so that the impact is equitable and existing inequalities are not exacerbated.
4. Social dialogue to ensure impacted citizens and communities are empowered and are core to the transition process.'

As a Local Authority, Tipperary County Council is committed to delivering a quality of life to all Tipperary citizens across the entire county. This includes ensuring a Just Transition in climate change planning, for example through the social housing retrofitting programme, support for rural and urban mobility, enterprise and job development, education and training opportunities etc.

The actions set out in this LACAP seek to ensure collaboration and inclusion of communities through the delivery of council services. In addition, the objectives of the Tipperary Local, Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2029 seek to support a just response to Climate Change.

The Council acknowledges that some sectors and communities will be more impacted than others, and people need to be equipped with the skills to benefit from changes and that costs need to be shared.



1.9.1 European Union Just Transition Fund area

The Midlands region is the first in Ireland to directly experience the negative impacts of the transition away from fossil fuels with the ending of peat extraction for power generation. The European Union Just Transition Fund (EU JTF) is Pillar 1 of the EU Just Transition Mechanism¹ and its purpose is to assist the most affected territories in transitioning to a climate neutral economy. A large part of Tipperary (the Carrick on Suir

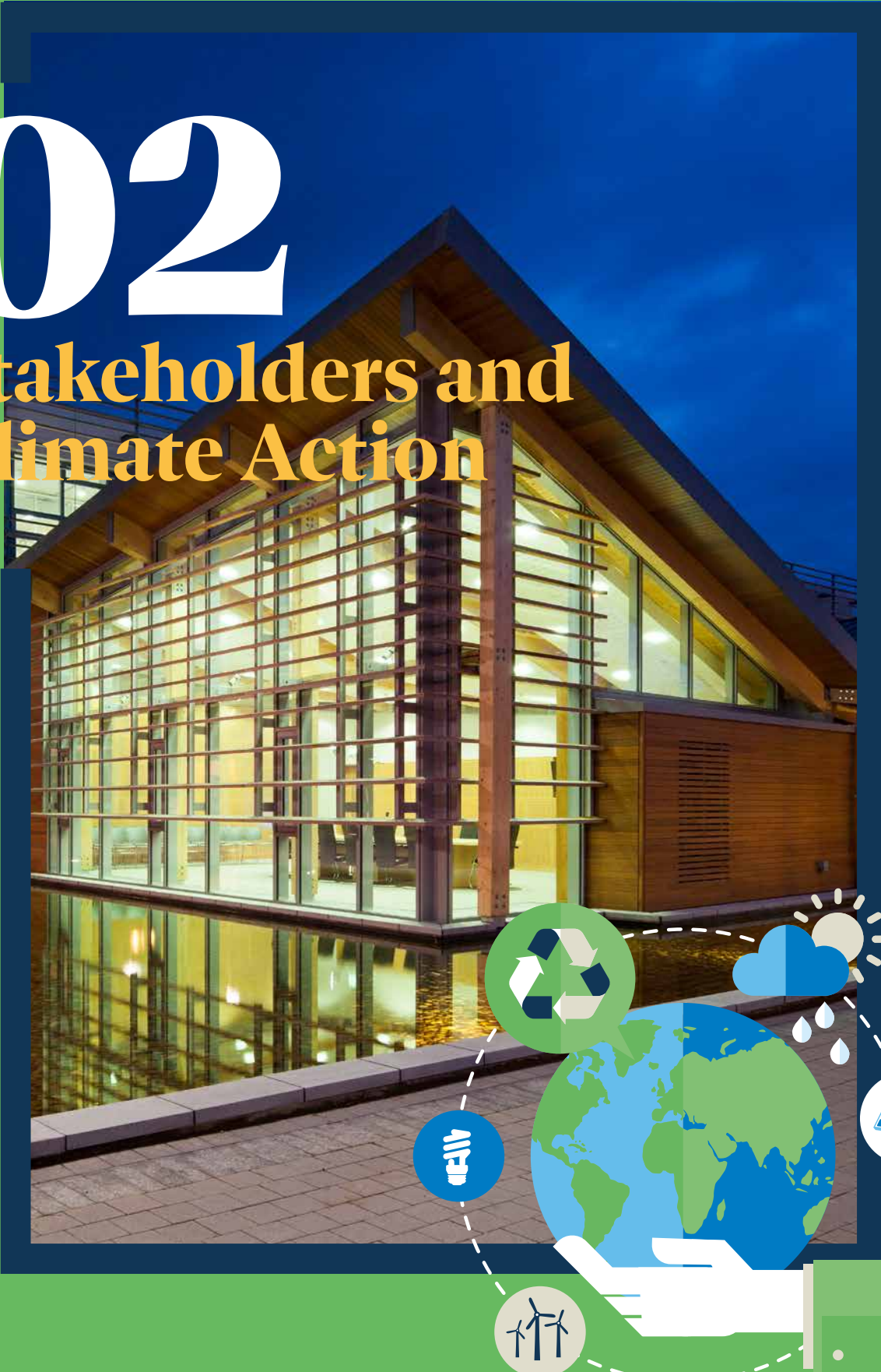
and Thurles Municipal Districts) is located with the EU JTF area and thus eligible to benefit from funding under the programme.

The JTF designation in Tipperary has informed the designation of the Tipperary DZ and presents opportunities for competitive bidding for funding for projects and communities in the EU Just Transition Fund area etc. In terms of this LACAP, many of the funding schemes have a clear climate action focus. (Refer to Section 7.3 for further detail on the EU JTF in Tipperary).

¹ gov.ie - EU Just Transition Fund (www.gov.ie)

02

Stakeholders and Climate Action





2.1 Stakeholder Frameworks

2.1.1 The National Dialogue on Climate Action

The National Dialogue on Climate Action (NDCA) was established within DECC to facilitate public participation in the development of the national Climate Action Plan by engaging people in climate-related dialogue in an annual programme of events centred around inclusive climate conversations.

The 2022 NDCA, Climate Conversations 2022 suggests that there is a high level of awareness of climate change among the Irish people, and they want to get involved in climate action. The findings of the 2022 engagement programme have also shown that there is a willingness to engage in cli-

mate action, but people may not know which actions are most effective or where to start acting.

The findings of the NDCA have been considered in the development of this LACAP in so far as is relevant to the services that the Council delivers. The actions set out in this LACAP under its 5 Themes will help enable citizen and stakeholder engagement, and in particular, help stakeholders realise the opportunities that a transition to a carbon-neutral society and economy presents, such as new sustainable careers, warmer more energy-efficient homes, better travel options, more sustainable consumer choice, integrated spatial planning, cleaner air and water and a better environment for future generations.

2.1.2 National Climate Action Plan

The national Climate Action Plan requires engagement with people, ensuring that they are empowered to take the actions needed to build an Ireland where:

- » Our communities are healthy and secure, enjoy cleaner air and water, and where homes are warmer and cheaper to heat;
- » Thousands of new jobs are created by investing in areas like offshore wind, retrofit and cutting-edge agriculture;

- » We cut our dependence on imported fossil fuels, and power comes from our own indigenous renewable resources including wind and solar;
- » Walking and cycling are safe and accessible, public transport is cleaner and more frequent, and the rollout of electric vehicles is supported nationwide;
- » Farmers have certainty that their industry has a viable future where farmers can continue producing world-class food with an even lower carbon footprint.

2.1.3 Tipperary County Development Plan

The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 was prepared with detailed public consultation processes and sets out the spatial planning framework for county Tipperary for a period of 6 years, with a framework and vision for how new development will occur across the county in both urban and rural areas.

Key components of the County Development Plan are the settlement strategy, housing strategy and renewable energy strategy for the county.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, included a new provision in Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) that stipulates that the Development Plan shall include provisions to:

(ii) reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and address the necessity of adaptation to climate change, taking account of the local authority climate action plan (within the meaning of section 14B of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015), where such a plan has been made for the area in question.

In this respect, the County Development Plan and the LACAP are consistent with

each other and should be considered as part of the overall sustainable development framework for the county.

2.1.4 Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan

The Tipperary Local, Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2029 (LECP) sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Tipperary, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The LECP was prepared with extensive stakeholder consultation and ensures that Government and other stakeholders can work together to ensure that their initiatives, programmes and projects support an improved quality of life for people living and working in the county.

The LECP and the LACAP have been prepared with close consideration to each other, and the economic and community/social objectives of the LECP will be supported by the outward facing actions of the LACAP as delivered through the Council services and supported by the work of external sectors and stakeholders.

2.2 Stakeholder Groups

The Council has significant experience in engaging citizens and stakeholders, through its existing services and functions, such as land-use planning, housing, enterprise, transport and environmental awareness.

This LACAP has been prepared with and through the input and collaboration of a wide range of internal and external stakeholders. Key stakeholders involved in the process to date include:

- » The Elected Members of Tipperary County Council
- » County Council Climate Action Steering Group
- » County Council Climate Action Team
- » County Council Staff
- » The Public Participation Network (PPN)
- » The Strategic Policy Committees of the Council (SPCs)

- » The Local Community and Development Committee (LCDC)
- » The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)
- » Regional Assemblies
- » Adjoining Local Authorities
- » Government Organisations
- » General Public, Social and Community representatives (through the Tipperary PPN)
- » Sectoral and Non-Governmental Representatives: Enterprise, Employment and Industry

The PPN was a key and important contributor to the public consultation aspect of the LACAP, and through their coordinator and environmental pillar group, have actively participated in the development of the LACAP.



will support a collaborative approach and shared learning through existing networks and organisations each with their own public facing role and responsibility.

2.2.1 Management and Staff of Tipperary County Council

The Climate Action Steering Group, Climate Action Team and all the staff of the Council have a key role in the achievement of the Council's own emissions reductions targets, and in the mainstreaming of climate action across the delivery of Council services and functions. In order to achieve this, the Council has committed to a climate action governance structure and dedicated actions including a 'Reduce your use' Campaign for all staff. Refer to Actions set out in Appendix 1, in particular those set out under Theme 1: Governance and Leadership (Strategic Goals 1 and 2)

2.2.2 Elected Members of Tipperary County Council

Pursuant to the provisions of the Act, elected members have responsibility for making the LACAP and are central to the plan-making process from the earliest stage. The elected members of the Council have engaged proactively in the following ways;

- » Supporting and engaging in national and regional climate action policy development
- » Through attendance at climate action training
- » Through their role on the Strategic Policy Committees, particularly that dedicated to Environment and Climate Action
- » Through attendance at dedicated climate action workshops with the CARO
- » Through attendance at Plenary meetings of the Council.

The Council will continue to be actively involved with the Climate Action Office in the delivery and monitoring of actions set out in this LACAP.

2.2.3 SustainableTipp

It is recognised that effective, whole of county climate action is also dependent on the actions and programmes of external stakeholders and communities as change makers for their selves, and this is reflected in government policy and in the range of community and sectoral supports available, for example, the Pobal Community Climate Action Programme, the Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF), the Rural Development Programme (through the Development Companies), the Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) programme of the SEAI, the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) (through the Development Companies) etc.

There are already many organisations involved in climate action in Tipperary, for example, the North Tipperary Development Company, the South Tipperary Development Company, Tipperary Education and Training Board, Local Enterprise Office (LEO), SEAI etc. These offer support for communities, individuals, families and businesses in Tipperary. Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability are among the key areas of focus for many of the ongoing and emerging programmes.

'SustainableTipp' is an existing stakeholder group comprised of external facing organisations who support communities and other sectors in achieving their climate action ambitions. SustainableTipp will support a collaborative approach and shared learning through existing networks and organisations each with their own public facing role and responsibility.

The Council will work with this outward facing stakeholder group, to help co-ordinate their efforts to achieve effective community and public outreach through existing networks, organisations and programmes. This is set out in 'Governance and Leadership' Action 18.



03

Profile of the County Council



3.1 Tipperary County Context

Tipperary is the 6th largest county in Ireland with an area of 4,282 sq. km. It is located in the centre of the country and shares a border with eight other counties. It is part of the Irish central plain and is mostly a rich agricultural landscape. There are a number of mountain ranges, including the Galtee Mountains, the highest inland mountains in the country. The River Shannon drains the north-west of the county, with the River Suir draining much of the rest of the county. There are three key towns;

1. Clonmel
2. Nenagh
3. Thurles

In line with the 'Core Strategy' of the County Development Plan 2022-2028, investment in and growth of the key towns and the other towns and villages of the county will deliver regional and county development supported by a connected and vibrant network of communities.

Tipperary's population is 167,895 persons (Census 2022), an increase of 8,342 (5%) since 2016, and it is currently the 12th larg-

est county by population. Tipperary a rural county with approximately 58.5% of the population living in rural areas (this figure includes those living in villages under 1500 population) compared with the national average of 37.3% (CSO 2016).

Tipperary is particularly well connected with national rail and road networks linking the county with Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Waterford, however, local transport within the county remains highly reliant on the private car as the primary mode of transport.

Tipperary has a diverse economy; the largest employment sectors in the county are the wholesale and retail sector (13.8%) and the manufacturing sector (13.7%), and Tipperary has one of the highest agricultural workforces in the country (11%). Completing the top five are human health, social work, and education coming in at around 10% each (CSO 2016). Along with these main industrial sectors, the county has economic strengths and a reputation for excellence in the following sectors:

- » The Bioeconomy
- » The Agri-food industry
- » The Equine economy
- » The Tourism economy
- » The Pharmaceutical sector.

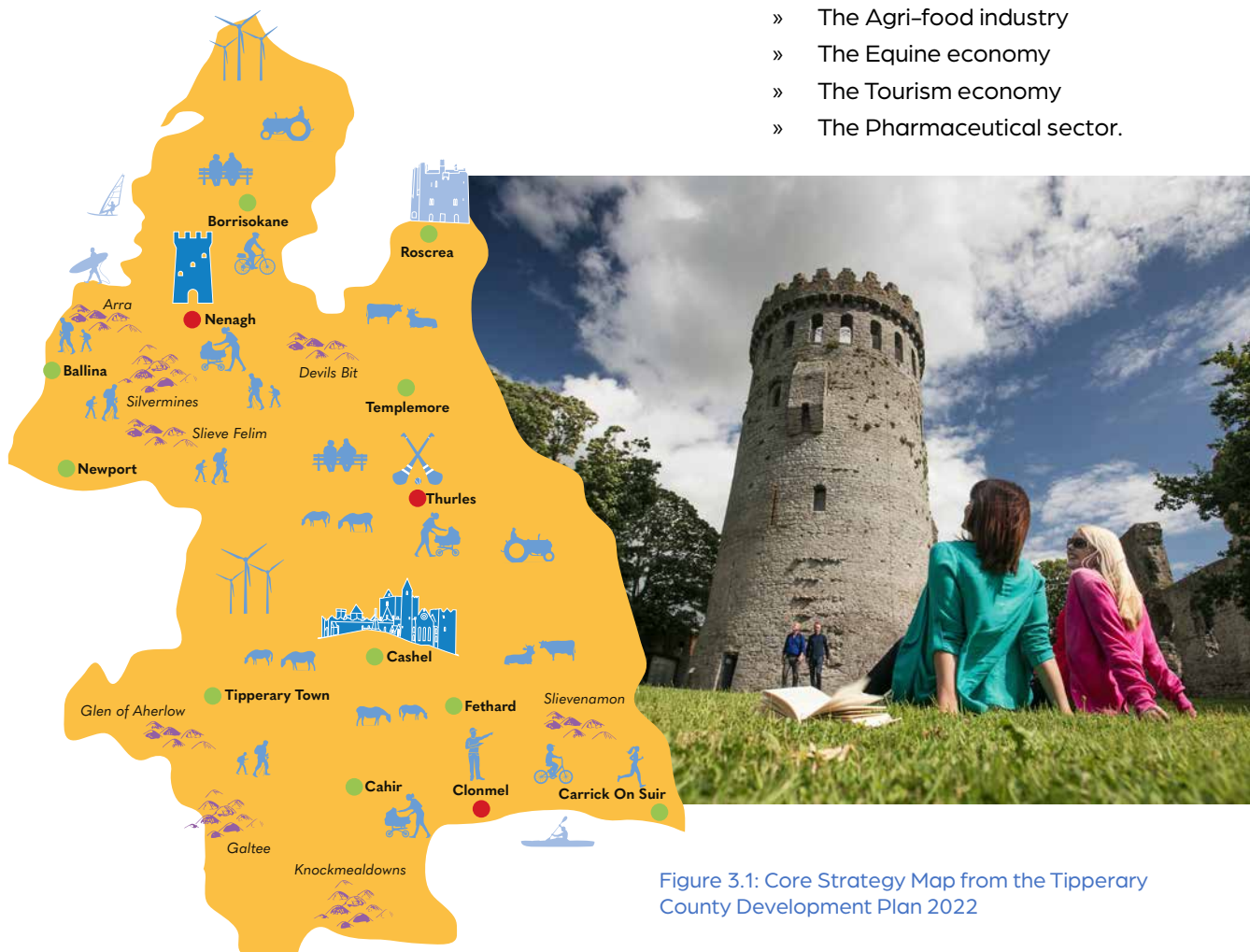


Figure 3.1: Core Strategy Map from the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022

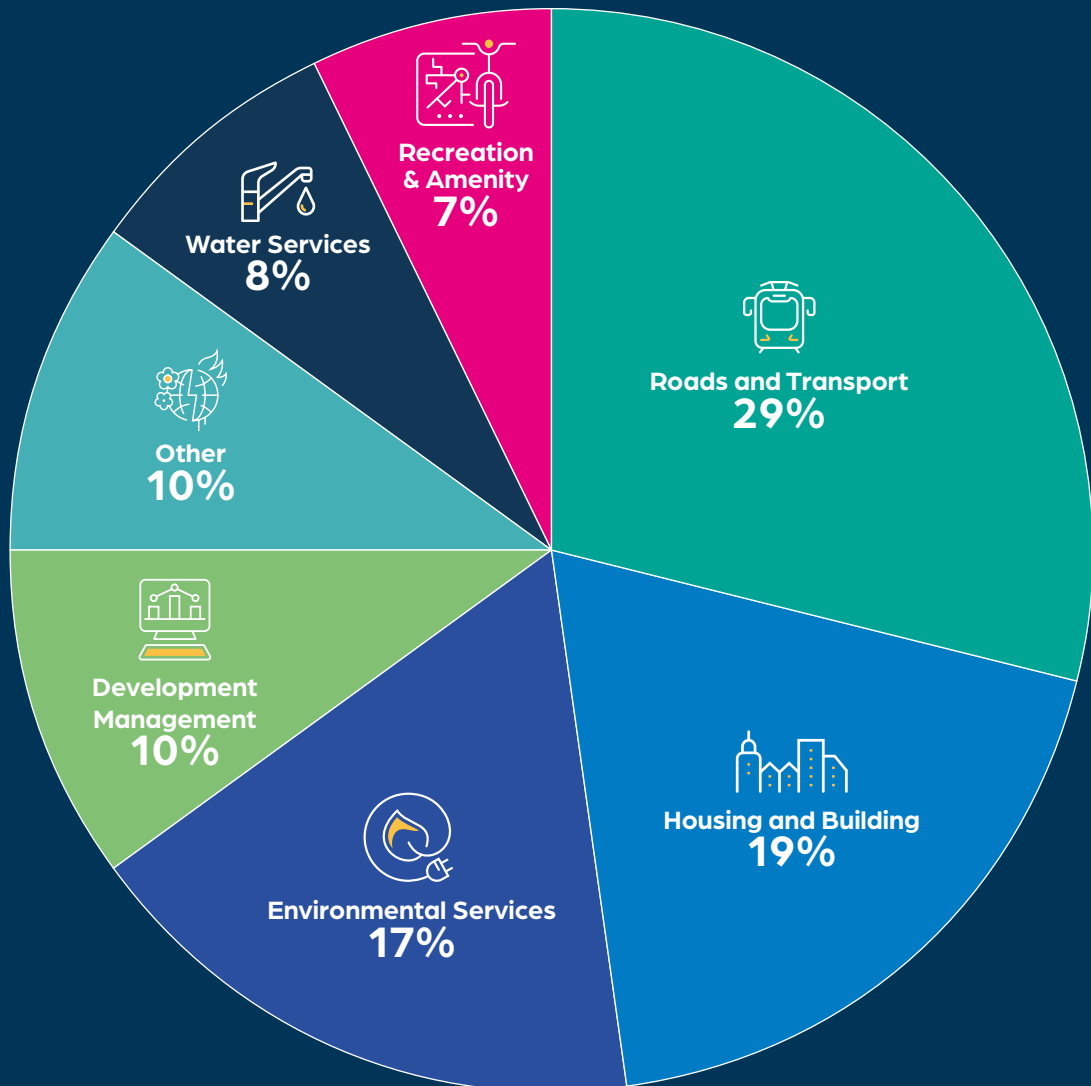
3.2 Tipperary County Council as a Service Provider

The Council is itself a large and diverse organisation, responsible for the provision of a wide range of services and supports to a diverse range of customers. The Council has many customers, including 167,661 residents in 69,106 households, approximately 14,000 businesses with over 63,400 employees, along with those who visit the county for recreation.

Council services are delivered by just over 1,000 staff working out of two main Civic Offices in the county at Clonmel and Nenagh. There are also five Municipal District offices in Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir, Nenagh, Thurles and Tipperary¹. The Council itself is one of the major employers in the county, with a combined capital and revenue spend of circa €200 million per annum.

¹ Service Delivery Plan Adopted 11th April, 2023.pdf (tipperarycoco.ie)

The Council provides the following services (allocated by % of total budget spend):



The Council maintains and operates a network of public amenities including libraries, civic amenity centres, public parks, blue and greenways, public swimming pools/leisure centres etc.

The Council **Roads and Transport Section** manages and maintains the local public road network in the county with responsibilities including:

- » Planning and construction of new roads
- » Management of a fleet of 250 vehicles, including 63 Vans and Jeeps, 78 Pick-up Trucks, 42 HGVs and 25 Plant and Machinery.
- » Maintenance of existing roads
- » Active Travel Programme – including walking and cycling networks
- » Electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure
- » Planning, delivery and maintenance of Greenways and Blueways
- » Flood Risk Management
- » Severe Weather Response
- » Road Safety Programme
- » Public Lighting (approximately 17,200 light fixtures).

¹ A transition process is currently underway, which will result in the Council no longer having a role in the supply of water and provision of wastewater treatment.

The Council **Housing Section** ensures that qualifying persons have affordable accommodation suitable to their social and personal needs. The Housing Section is responsible for the maintenance of approximately 5,400 housing units throughout the county.

Water Services, the Council operates and maintains water services on behalf of Uisce Éireann, including supply of water and provision of wastewater treatment¹.

Council's role as a **Planning Authority** is concerned with physical planning and sustainable development. This is delivered through:

- » Development Management
- » Enforcement
- » Planning Policy
- » Regeneration of Town Centres
- » Urban and Rural Regeneration Programme and the EU JTF.

The role of the **Environment and Climate Action** section is to protect human health and the natural environment and to mainstream climate actions across services. The section is responsible for:

- » Climate Action
- » Environmental Awareness
- » Waste and Circular Economy Infrastructure
- » Waste Enforcement
- » Burial Grounds
- » Air and Water Quality

The key objectives of the **Economic, Community and Rural Development** section are to:

- » Facilitate economic (including tourism) and enterprise development through economic policies, actions and enterprise supports
- » Support multi-agency collaboration through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- » Support public participation in decision making and policy development
- » Make Tipperary a healthier more inclusive place to live work and visit by supporting health and wellbeing, Inclusive sport and life-long activity, social inclusion, migrant integration, age friendly and volunteerism etc.

The Tipperary **Fire & Rescue** Service maintains round the clock emergency cover to protect life and property, and manages a fleet of vehicles from twelve fire stations at:

- » Borrisokane
- » Cahir
- » Carrick-on-Suir
- » Cashel
- » Clonmel
- » Cloughjordan
- » Nenagh
- » Newport
- » Roscrea
- » Templemore
- » Thurles
- » Tipperary Town

The Tipperary **Civil Defence** provides support to community, sport and cultural events and operate out of Clonmel and Nenagh Fire stations with a fleet of vehicles and ambulances.

The Council also has responsibilities for **Libraries, Arts, Heritage and Museums**. The Arts Service works in partnership with artist and communities to enrich artistic life. The Heritage Office promotes, builds awareness and appreciation of heritage and biodiversity. The county museum is based in Clon-

mel. The library service provides a physical and on-line space for people to gather and enrich their cultural experience. There are twelve libraries under the management of the Council located at:

- » Thurles
- » Nenagh
- » Roscrea
- » Templemore
- » Borrisokane
- » Cloughjordan
- » Clonmel
- » Carrick-on-Suir
- » Tipperary
- » Cashel
- » Cahir
- » Killenaule

It can be seen that the Council is a very large organisation and in its role as a local authority, manages and provides a very broad range of services and functions, with associated staff, systems, fleet and facilities. In line with other sectors of the economy, the Council has its own emissions reductions targets to be achieved by 2030 with the associated costs and challenges, and this LACAP and the actions set out within it are an important part of this objective.



Figure 3.2 Tipperary County Council Climate Action team

“



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

the Council is a very large organisation and in its role as a local authority, manages and provides a very broad range of services and functions

3.3 Leadership



The Council has always been leader in responding to climate change and delivering for climate action and will take this role forward over the period 2024 – 2029. Section 3.2 identifies the many functional areas across which the council delivers its services. This section sets out some of the ongoing actions and initiatives that the Council leads in Tipperary.

3.3.1 Membership of EU Covenant of Mayors

The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy¹ is an initiative supported by the European Commission bringing together thousands of local governments that want to secure a better future for their citizens. By joining the initiative, they voluntarily commit to implementing EU climate and energy objectives. In 2015, with the support of the Tipperary Energy Agency, the Council joined the EU ‘Covenant of Mayors’.

The principles of the Covenant of Mayors are supported by a steering committee, called ‘Sustainable Tipp’ who represent the Council and stakeholder/community representatives. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to the Covenant of Mayors in February 2024 upon the making of the LACAP.

3.3.2 Annual Monitoring and Reporting of Energy Performance

Public bodies are required by DECC to report annual energy data to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)² every year. It is set in the context of Ireland’s EU and national commitments and wider climate change goals, whereby a 51% reduction in energy-related GHG emissions and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency is to be achieved by all Irish public bodies by 2030. Each public sector organisation is required to report the following data through the monitoring and reporting system:

- » Annual energy consumption for all energy types.

- » Annual value that quantifies the level of activity undertaken by the organisation each year. This is referred to as the activity metric.
- » Details of energy saving projects implemented and planned.
- » Summary of the approach adopted for reviewing the organisation’s energy management programme.

The Council reports to SEAI with the support on the TEA, using the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting tool, and is a leading local authority in energy performance. Details of Local Authority results are available to view on the SEAI website at [Public Sector Results \(seai.ie\)](https://seai.ie). Action 4 seeks to ensure that monitoring is maintained as a key objective of the LACAP.

3.3.3 Energy Efficient Public Lighting

Public lighting currently accounts for half of all the energy consumed by Tipperary County Council. Upgrading the lights will reduce the energy use by approximately 55% cutting carbon emissions significantly resulting in a saving of over 3000 tonnes in CO₂ annually. This is one of the council’s key efforts in realising its “energy reduction and climate action goals”. The upgrade of all lights will also reduce energy and maintenance costs, saving Tipperary County Council over €300,000 annually.

There are over 18,000 light in the county, 6,700 street lights have already been upgraded to light-emitting diode lights (LED) in the past eight years. Work has begun in on upgrading the remaining 11,600 public lights. As of August 2023, a contractor has been engaged to survey the lights in the county and propose a lighting design standard. It is expected that the planned upgrade works will begin in 2024. Action 32 seeks to further support reduced energy public lighting.

¹ Why a Covenant of Mayors? | Covenant of Mayors – Europe (europa.eu)

² Public Sector Results (seai.ie)

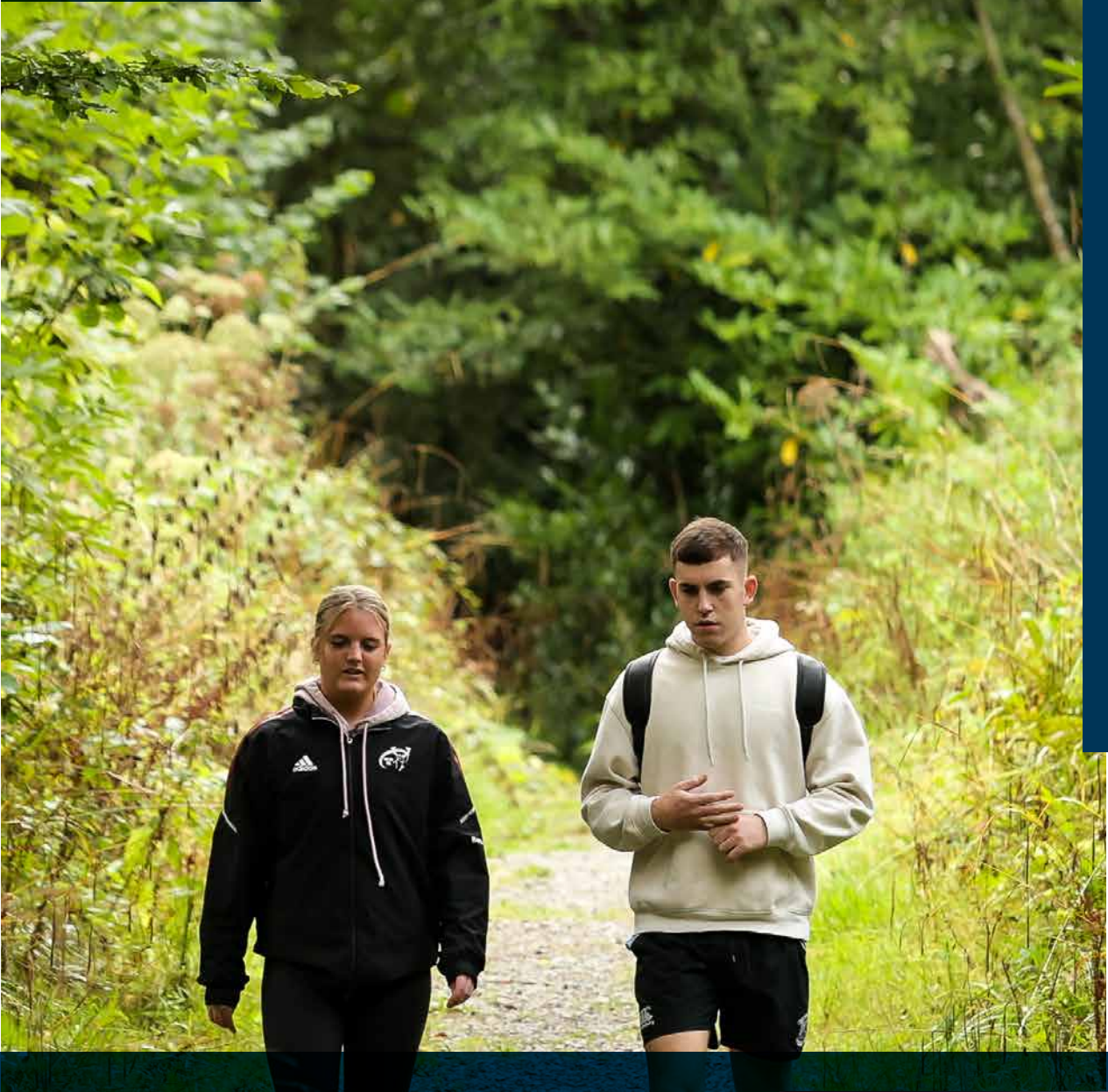


Figure 3.3: Dragan village, before
and after lighting upgrade



Figure 3.3: Alternative Fuel Vehicles in the Council's fleet

3.3.4 Trailing of Alternative Fuel Vehicles

The council manages approximately 250 vehicles, this includes seven fully electric vans. At the moment there is no suitable electrically powered alternative to diesel for the larger and heavier vehicles.

Hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) is pure biodiesel and a 100% synthetic alternative to fossil fuel diesel. As it is produced mostly from treating waste plant matter it does not release any additional carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

In 2022, the Council commenced a trial using HVO in approximately 5% of its fleet. The intention was to assess feasibility of expanding the use of HVO to approximately 20% of the fleet.

It was found that there were no operational issues with the vehicles using HVO, there was no capital outlay in converting to HVO and it reduced the GHG emissions of the fleet, however it was found that HVO is more expensive than standard diesel.

The benefits of using HVO is up to a 90% reduction in GHG emissions, it is a cleaner fuel than diesel (lower nitrogen oxide emission and particulate matter). The disadvantage of using HVO is that it is expensive and there are issues around security of supply. Action 31 seeks to further examine alternative fuel vehicles in reducing emissions in the local authority.

“

The benefits of using HVO is up to a 90% reduction in GHG emissions, it is a cleaner fuel than diesel



3.3.5 Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019

In 2019, with the support of the TEA, the Council produced a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework (DECC, 2018). The Climate Adaptation Strategy enables the Council to plan for, respond to, and adapt to extreme weather events. The approach to how climate change is addressed is based around six thematic areas below:

- » Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations
- » Infrastructure and Built Environment
- » Land Use and Development
- » Drainage and Flood Management
- » Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure
- » Sustaining Our Communities.

The actions and provisions of the Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 have been included in the LACAP (mitigation and adaptation actions set out within).

3.3.6 Tipperary County Council Solar Photovoltaic Project

In 2014, the Council completed the installation of 768 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on nine Council buildings to provide clean renewable electricity and reduce demand from the grid by 171,000 kilo-watt hours (kWh) annually. A range of buildings were chosen based on suitability and economic viability including three civic offices, two fire stations, two libraries, a machinery yard and a leisure centre. The power produced from these panels will equate to an average annual reduction in electricity demand of approximately 11% across the nine buildings, making a significant impact on energy bills over the life time of the systems. Action 30 seeks to further examine renewable energy technologies in reducing emissions in the local authority.

Site	PV kW Installed	No. of Panels
Tipperary County Council Civic Offices Nenagh	45	180
Nenagh Leisure Centre	45	180
Tipperary County Council Civic Offices Clonmel	35	140
Clonmel Machinery Yard	26	104
Clonmel Fire Station	15	60
Nenagh Fire Station	7	28
Tipperary Town Civic Offices	6	24
Nenagh Library	6	24
Cashel Library	7	28
Total	192	768

Table: 3.1 Solar installations on Council owned buildings



3.5 Bridge in Ardfinnan Village set within natural parkland

3.3.7 Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy

In 2021, the Council won funding to the sum of €9.52million for a new €12.5million project entitled 'A Pathway to a Low-Carbon Society: A Centre for Excellence for Sustainable Energy' for transformational urban regeneration of Nenagh Town Centre'. This will be Ireland's first carbon-neutral building in Nenagh and is a project that could generate some 350 jobs over a 10-year period. The proposed 'Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy' is being developed by the Council in partnership with stakeholders including; the TEA, Limerick Institute of Technology, the North Tipperary Development Company, Community Power, Siga Ltd. The centre will host a range of public agencies working collaboratively to deliver innovative solutions in training and development, cutting edge research on technologies and incubating low-carbon social enterprises. The space will contain 100 work spaces, 15 incubation spaces, one multi-purpose training centre and two meeting rooms to rent. Action 90 seeks to support this project.

3.3.8 The National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen

Project Ireland 2040 and the Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023 – 2025 (DFAM, 2023), highlights the potential of the bioeconomy in promoting the more efficient use of renewable resources while supporting

economic development and employment in rural Ireland. The bioeconomy relates to the production of renewable biological resources and the conversion of these resources and waste streams into value added products, such as food, and bioenergy. It cuts across a range of sectors, including agriculture, the marine, forestry, water and waste management, energy, as well as biopharmaceuticals

The former mine complex, located at Lisheen, Thurles, is now designated as the National Bioeconomy Campus as identified in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028. The Council is one of a number of stakeholders who are working towards the delivery the vision for this area, other stakeholders include the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF) and key private stakeholders. The National Bioeconomy Campus is supported by the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024, and it is stated that 'the campus is a critical piece of infrastructure which will enable diversification of business activities in the agri-food and marine sectors in the rural economy, attracting and retaining workers and businesses in the region and in turn driving innovation and investment'. In addition, the National Policy Statement on the Bio-economy 20181, supports the National Bioeconomy Campus.

The mission of IBF is to promote the conversion of Ireland's natural land and sea resources to high value products for the

1 gov.ie - National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy (www.gov.ie)

development of a sustainable bioeconomy that is globally competitive. The IBF's membership includes individuals and organisations responsible for many flagship initiatives already in place. These include:

- » The AgriChemWhey EU flagship project, led by Glanbia, which will fund the world's first food by-product Biorefinery plant located at Lisheen.
- » Model Demonstrator Region status awarded by the European Commission to the area spanning a 50km radius of Lisheen, one of only six regions in the EU granted such status. These regions are mandated to contribute to the development of the bioeconomy by utilising domestically available feedstock.
- » Shannon ABC – An Enterprise Ireland funded technology gateway with the remit for prospecting bio-resources, for national and international

partner industries for added value products, hosted by Munster Technological University and the TUS.

- » The Dairy Processing Technology Centre is an industry–academic collaborative research centre, hosted by the University of Limerick, with a research agenda driven by the growth opportunities for the dairy sector. The centre is funded by Enterprise Ireland and the Dairy Industry Partners.
- » ICT Biochain. A H2020 funded project looking at Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools in efficient biomass supply chains for sustainable chemical production.

Actions 55 and 100 seek to support the National Bioeconomy Campus.

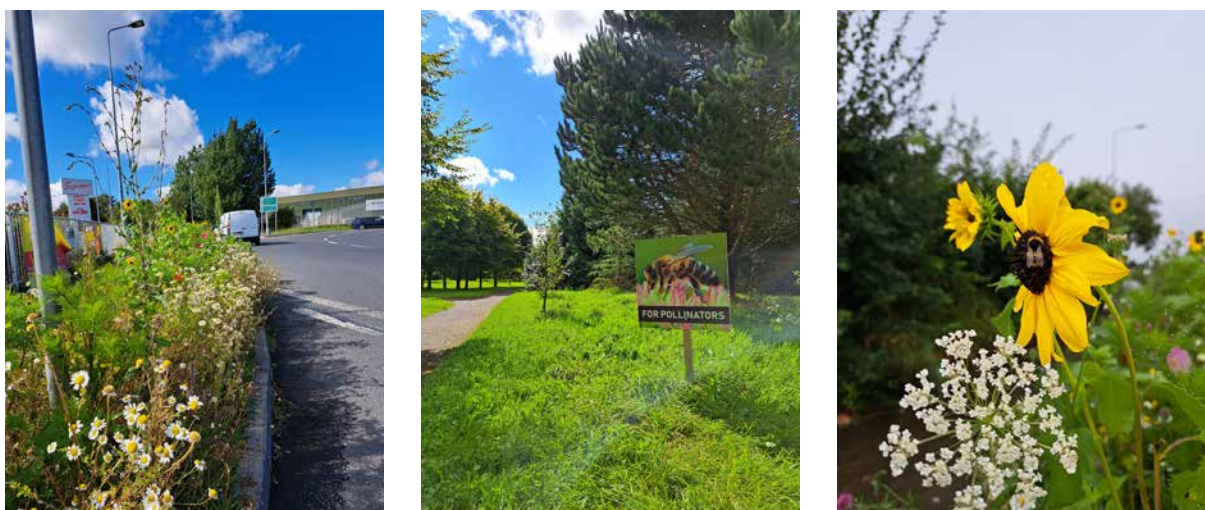


Figure 3.6: Examples of planting and maintenance measures that support biodiversity on public lands

3.3.9 Protecting our Biodiversity

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021–2025¹ coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre is a five-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. It is about encouraging a better way of managing our whole landscape to permanently support our struggling biodiversity. Tipperary County Council is a partner of the All Ireland

Pollinator Plan and has a dedicated Biodiversity Officer and is already taking actions, for example reducing herbicide use, supporting research in the area of alternatives to herbicides and planting for biodiversity, to support pollinators on public land as well as working with local community groups, residents' associations and schools to help raise awareness of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (see Action 60).

¹ All-Ireland Pollinator Plan » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (pollinators.ie)

“

the Community Climate Action Programme supports projects and initiatives that facilitate community climate action through education, capacity building and learning by doing.

Figure 3.7 Launch of the Community Climate Action Fund



3.3.10 Community Climate Action

The Council is committed to supporting communities to help them become more climate aware and to participate in practical climate action. To help support this a dedicated community climate action officer is in place to support community climate action through the Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF) (Action 67). In addition, this LACAP, seeks through its actions, to embed climate action across the delivery of its outward facing functions and services across the local authority (Action 18) and particularly through strategic goals no. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9).

In February 2023, the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications, launched the first Climate Action Fund Strand 1 – Building Low Carbon Communi-

ties. This was a fund of €24 million for local authorities across the country, to support and build low carbon communities. This funding is part of the Community Climate Action Programme, which supports projects and initiatives that facilitate community climate action through education, capacity building and learning by doing.

Tipperary County Council was allocated €700,000 through the CCAF, and applications for community projects eligible for funding were sought from communities under the following five themes:

- » Home/energy
- » Travel
- » Food and waste
- » Shopping and recycling
- » Local climate and environmental action.



04

Evidence-based Climate Action



4.1 Importance of evidence-based climate action planning

The Guidelines require that the LACAP is informed by a robust evidence-base to help understand the challenges, identify synergies and opportunities, and leverage mechanisms and actors in the delivery of effective climate action. Building an evidence base includes:

- » Establishing the local authority context
- » Developing a county/ city wide baseline emission inventory
- » Developing a baseline emissions inventory for the DZ
- » Assessing climate change risks and impacts
- » Exploring the broader policy context of the LACAP.

Building the evidence base enables integrated local level climate action and consequently, stronger place-based climate action. Up to now, climate change mitigation and adaptation have been approached as two distinct agendas. The LACAP presents an opportunity to now deliver both in an integrated way.

Baseline reports¹ (set out in section 1.6) have informed this LACAP, and have helped in developing a better understanding of GHG emissions and climate-related risks, in assessing local conditions and contexts, and in translating and tailoring the broader policy context and framework for ambitious, climate policy responses to local level.

¹ Available to view on-line at www.tipprarycoco.ie/climateaction



4.2 Climate Change Risk Assessment

4.2.1 Current Climate Change Risk and Impacts

The Tipperary climate hazards profile as set out in the Tipperary County Council Climate Change Risk Assessment, 2023 (CCRA) provides a review of the extreme weather events that occurred in the county over the past 30 years. It is indicated that severe windstorms often combined with extreme precipitation, were the most frequently occurring climate hazards. The typical current climate hazards are outlined below in Figure 4.1 in order of severity. These current climate hazards have an existing impact on society and on the Tipperary economy,

the typical impact areas are listed as Asset Damage, Health and Wellbeing, Environment, Social, Financial, Reputation and Cultural Heritage. (Table 6-4 in the CCRA, supplementary document to this LACAP, illustrates the magnitude of impact across various risk areas).

For Tipperary County Council the risks and impacts associated with climate change on the delivery of services and functions are identified and assessed. This was used to inform actions and a response to climate risks. The objective is to increase resilience through mitigation of the vulnerabilities which increase the severity of risks associated with a particular exposure.












Climate Hazards		Frequency
	Severe Windstorm	Frequent
	Extreme Precipitation	Frequent
	Pluvial Flooding	Common
	Above Average Surface Temperature	Common
	Above Average Precipitation	Common
	River Flooding	Common
	Heatwave	Common
	Drought	Common
	Cold Spell	Occasional
	Heavy Snowfall	Occasional
	Increase in Relative Sea Level	Occasional

Figure 4.1 Climate Hazards, Climate Change Risk Assessment, Tipperary (2023)

4.2.2 Future Climate Change Risk and Hazards

Understanding how climate change risks are likely to evolve in the future is crucial to identifying how existing risks may be exacerbated by climate change or give rise to the emergence of new risks.

There are eleven significant climate risks identified for County Tipperary (Figure 4.2). However, the key future climate change risks are:

- » River Flooding
- » Extreme Precipitation
- » Drought

For each hazard and each impact category (Asset Damage, Health and Wellbeing, Environment, Social, Cultural Heritage, Financial, and Reputational), the projected level of impact has been estimated and the rationale for this provided.

Climate change hazards are set out a 'Future Impact Summary Matrix' (as set out in Appendix G of the CCRA) showing the projected impact versus the projected frequency for the future climate risks. The level of impact is calculated as the average level of impact across the impact categories of Asset Damage, Health and Wellbeing, Environment, Social, Financial, Reputational, and Cultural Heritage.



	Hazard Type	Current Frequency	Current Frequency (Score)	Asset Damage	Health and Wellbeing	Environment	Social	Financial	Reputation	Cultural Heritage	Current Impact	
CURRENT IMPACTS		River flood	Common	3	Major	Major	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	3.29
		Extreme precipitation	Frequent	4	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	2.29
		Drought	Common	3	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Negligible	2.29
		Severe windstorm	Frequent	4	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	2.14
		Heatwave	Common	3	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	2.14
		Pluvial flood	Common	3	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor	2.00
		Above average precipitation	Common	3	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	2.00
		Above average surface temperature	Common	3	Negligible	Negligible	Major	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	1.71
		Cold spell	Occasional	2	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Minor	1.71
		Heavy snowfall	Occasional	2	Minor	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Minor	1.71
		Increase in Relative Sea Level	Occasional	2	Negligible	Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Minor	1.29

Figure 4.2: Future Impact Summary Matrix, Appendix G of the Climate Change Risk Assessment, Tipperary (2023)



4.2.3 Actions for Climate Risk Adaptation and Mitigation

The CCRA process is integral to informing the preparation of the LACAP by identifying and prioritising current and future risks. It assists in the identification of possible adaptation responses to reduce or remove climate change. The co-benefits of actions that set out to mitigate climate risk and to adapt to climate change have also been considered, for example, the

use of nature-based solutions on a catchment basis can reduce flood risk, whilst also enhancing biodiversity, water quality, quality of life and opportunities for eco-tourism etc.

The actions set out in this LACAP were informed and derived from the CCRA and relate to the following service areas:

Action	Service Area
21, 47, 59	Water quality
22, 27	Built Heritage
25, 26	Emergency Response and Data collection
28, 29	Flood Risk Works and Survey
57	Flood Risk and Building/Services Management
56, 58, 74	Nature Based Solutions and Water Management

Table 4.1 Current climate hazards

4.3 Baseline Emissions Inventory for Tipperary

The Council is required, under the Act to outline a pathway to reduce its GHG emissions by the required 51% by 2030. This is compared to GHG emission levels from 2018, which has been set as the baseline¹.

To support this objective, the Council commissioned the preparation of a Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) for the entire county in 2023². Both emissions generated and energy consumed were assessed. GHG emissions in 2018 for County Tipperary were 3,703.4 of CO₂eq.

It was found that GHG emissions for the Council in 2018 were 8.47kt of CO₂eq, or 0.2% of the county wide GHG emissions.

- » Total final emissions produced by the Council were 8.47 ktCO₂eq.
- » The 2030 GHG emissions target is 4.2 ktCO₂eq.
- » Total final energy used in 2018 was 31.8 GWh.

Other Sectors

- » Residential: Total residential emissions were 509.0 ktCO₂eq. Total

energy consumed by residential sector was 1,654.5 GWh.

- » Manufacturing and Commercial: Total commercial and manufacturing emissions were 472.4 ktCO₂eq. Total energy consumed by commercial and manufacturing sector was 1,861.5 GWh.
- » Industrial Processes: Total emissions from industrial processes were 24.5 ktCO₂eq.
- » Agriculture: Total emissions from Agriculture Sector were 1,848.9 ktCO₂eq. Total final energy used in 2018 was 291 GWh.
- » Transport: Total final emissions from transport were 488.5 ktCO₂eq. Total final energy used in 2018 was 1,766.4 GWh.
- » Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF): Total emissions from LULUCF sector were 317.2 kt of CO₂eq.
- » Waste: Total emissions from waste sector were 34.4 ktCO₂eq.

¹ Emission reduction targets will be based on an absolute tonnage of GHG emissions. The total tonnage target will be a 51% reduction of direct energy-related emissions (thermal and transport consumption), plus projected supply side reductions in indirect energy-related emissions from electricity. The baseline for the methodology is the period 2016 to 2018, with a scaling factor applied to ensure the individual targets equal the total ambition (National Climate Action Plan, 10.1.2)

² Tipperary Baseline Emissions Inventory, 2023 Tipperary County Council by the South East Energy Agency.

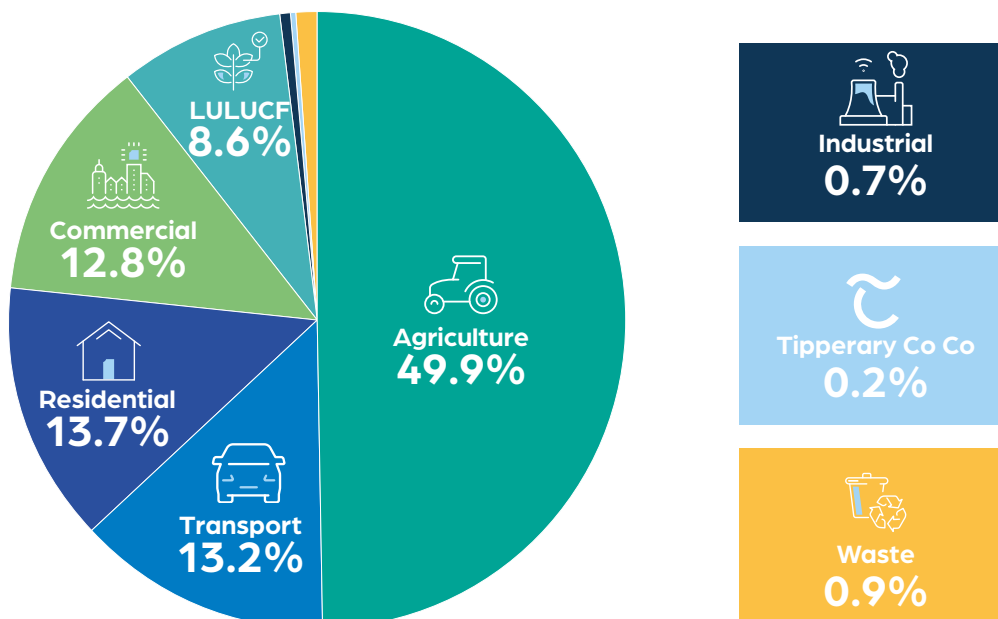


Figure 4.3: CO₂eq emissions per Sector in County Tipperary, 2018

The Council is not responsible for other sectors in achieving their own emissions reductions targets (as set out in the national Climate Action Plan), rather it is the role of the Council to influence, coordinate and facilitate, and advocate for climate action in other sectors and communities through the delivery of its services.

National sectoral emissions ceilings are set out in the National Climate Action Plan (based on overall target of 51% reduction by 2030) and were published on 22 July 2022³.

³ gov.ie - Government announces sectoral emissions ceilings, setting Ireland on a pathway to turn the tide on climate change (www.gov.ie)

The ceilings set maximum limits on GHG emissions for each sector of the Irish economy to the end of 2030. Sectoral emissions ceilings have been set for the electricity, transport, buildings, industry and agriculture sectors, delivering on a key Programme for Government commitment. This will involve a big transformation for all parts of society and all organisations.

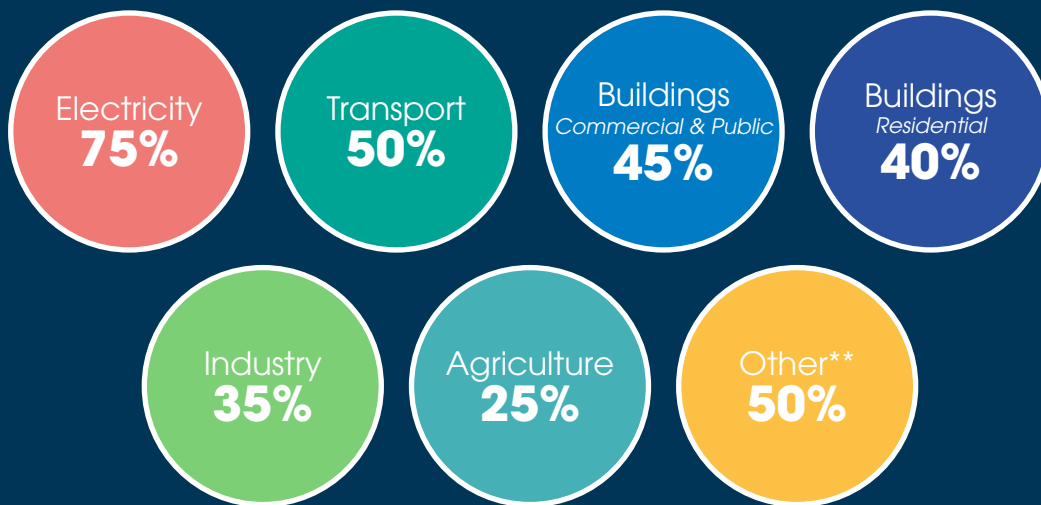
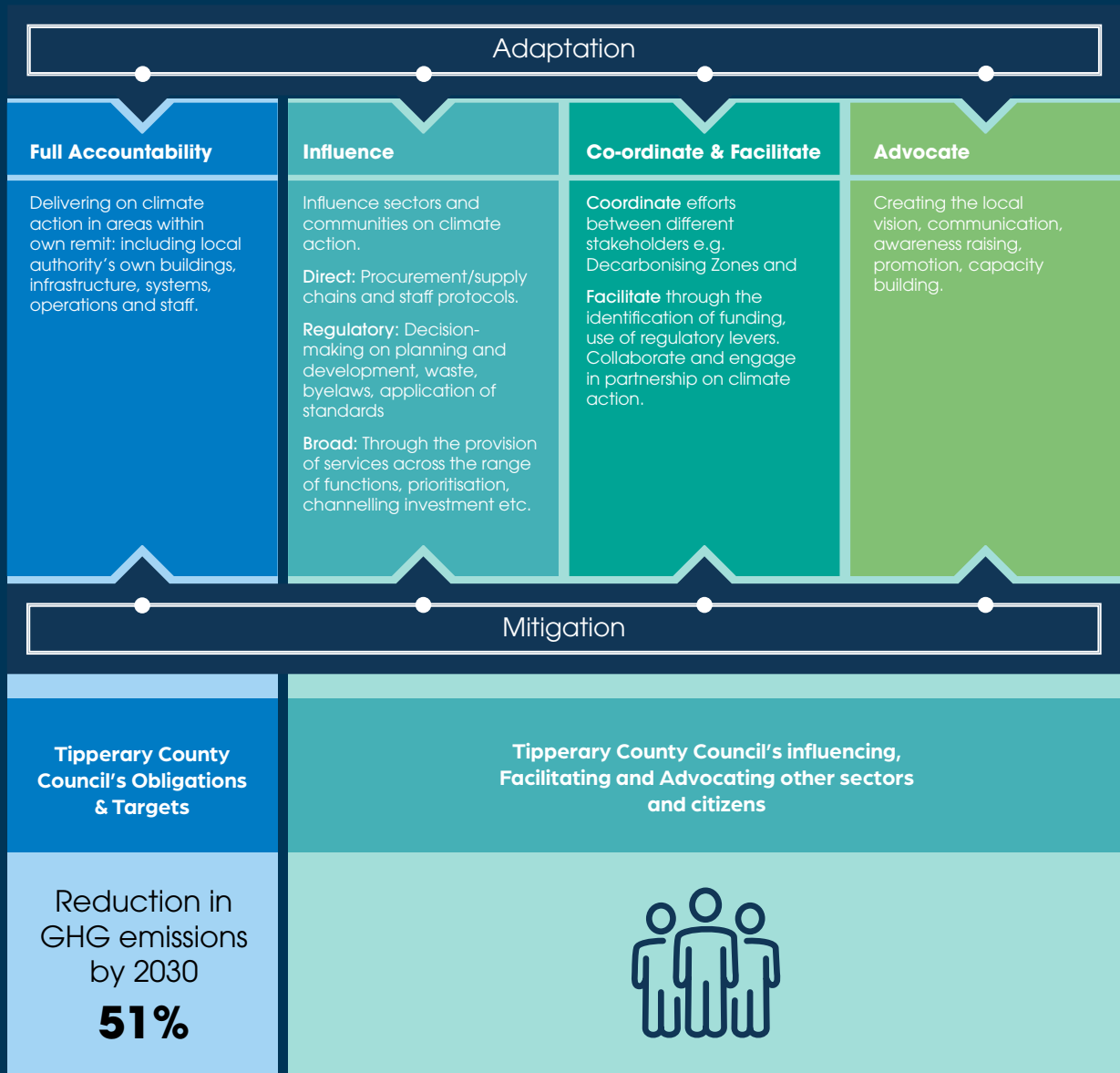
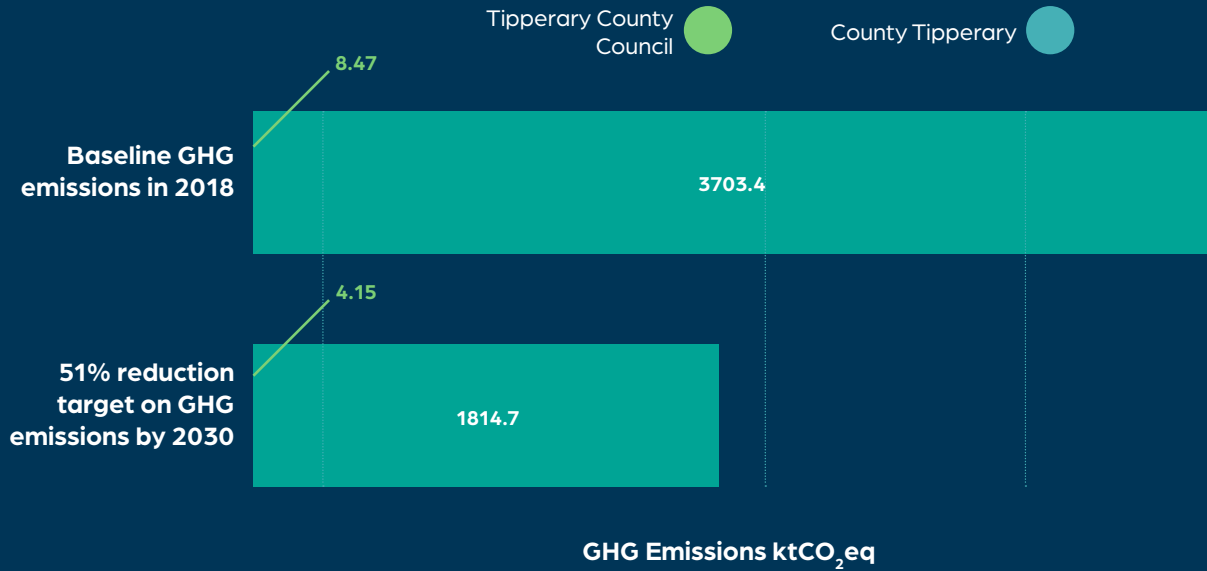


Figure 4.4 National Sectoral Emissions Reductions Targets 2030 (National Climate Action Plan)

Figure 4.3 outlines the 2018 baseline data for county Tipperary as a whole, and the Council as a separate sector. It can be seen that the Council's own contribution to overall emissions reductions is very small (0.2%),

however, notwithstanding this, the Council has a very important role as a leader and an influencer of change and this role is reflected in the Actions set out in this LACAP.



4.4 The Council's Own Emissions Reductions Targets

The Council is responsible for the energy use and the emissions produced from its own buildings and facilities, its public lighting, and its vehicle fleet. It is a significant challenge to reduce GHG emissions by the required 51% (and to increase energy efficiency by 50%) by 2030¹. In this respect the Council reports annually to the SEAI under the mandatory 'Monitoring and Reporting' system, a tool that tracks public sector progress towards the 2030 targets, based on the submission of energy data. The Council have reported to the SEAI using this system since 2012, and data is published in the Annual Report on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance (see most recent 2022 report – SEAI, 2022²).

The key findings from the Council's BEI in

terms of energy and emissions results 2018 were:

- » Total final energy used in 2018 was 31.8 GWh.
- » Buildings/Facilities was the largest consumer of energy in the sector, accounting for 44% of the total energy consumption, followed by Transport at 29% and Public lighting at 27%.
- » Total final emissions produced by the Council in 2018 were 8.5 ktCO₂eq.
- » Public Lighting, with 3.2 ktCO₂eq (37%), was responsible for the highest GHG emissions from the Council, followed by Buildings/Facilities at 2.9 ktCO₂eq (35%) and Transport 2.4 ktCO₂eq (28%).

¹ It is set out in the BEI for Tipperary that the National Baseline for Ireland is 2018, as set out in the Climate Action Plan 2021. However, the public sector baseline, including for Tipperary County Council is 2016–2018, as set out in the Climate Action Plan 2021. For the purposes of the county BEI a consistent baseline of 2018 is used, however, for the purposes of monitoring and reporting of emissions reductions by Tipperary County Council, the 2016 – 2018 public sector baseline will apply.

² seai.ie/publications/Public-Sector-Annual-Report-2022-English.pdf

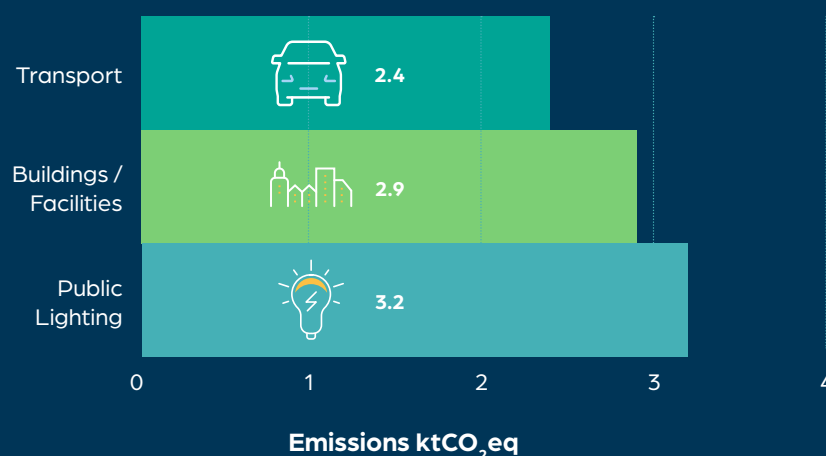


Figure 4.5: Breakdown of 2018 GHG emissions in ktCO₂eq by the Council – split by significant energy use category

4.4.1 Public Sector (2016 – 2018) Baseline for Monitoring and Reporting

It is set out in the BEI for Tipperary that the National Baseline for Ireland is 2018, as set out in the Climate Action Plan 2021. However, the public sector baseline is 2016–2018 as also set out in the Climate Action Plan 2021. For the purposes of the county BEI a consistent baseline of 2018 is used for all sectors, including for Tipperary County Council, however, for the purposes of monitoring and reporting of emissions reductions by Tipperary County Council, the 2016 – 2018 public sector baseline will apply

The county BEI therefore outlines the 2018 baseline data for County Tipperary as a whole, which includes Tipperary County Council's own 2018 data. However, for Tipperary County Council's own targets, the 2016–2018 baseline period has been used. (The public sector baseline data for the period 2016–2018 for Tipperary County Council is reported in Appendix B of the BEI).

The breakdown of electricity, thermal, and transport emissions in terms of the 2016–2018 baseline is set out in Table 4.2.

	2016	2017	2018	Avg. 2016–2018
Total Consumption (GWh)				
Electricity	13.57	13.27	13.09	13.31
Thermal	7.96	8.45	9.33	8.58
Transport	8.46	8.62	9.37	8.81
Total Final Energy	29.99	30.33	31.79	30.70
CO2 Emissions (ktCO2 eq)				
Electricity	6.49	5.76	4.89	5.71
Thermal	1.14	1.07	1.20	1.14
Transport	2.18	2.19	2.38	2.25
Total Final Emissions	9.81	9.02	8.47	9.10

The 2016 – 2018 baseline for emissions reduction for Tipperary County Council is **9.1 ktCO₂ eq.**

- » Public lighting accounted for 3.7 ktCO₂eq (40%) of total GHG emissions.
- » This was followed by buildings/facilities with 3.2 ktCO₂eq (35%).
- » Transport accounted for 2.3 ktCO₂eq (25%).

Table: 4.2 Tipperary County Council Emissions Reduction based on 2016 – 2018 Baseline

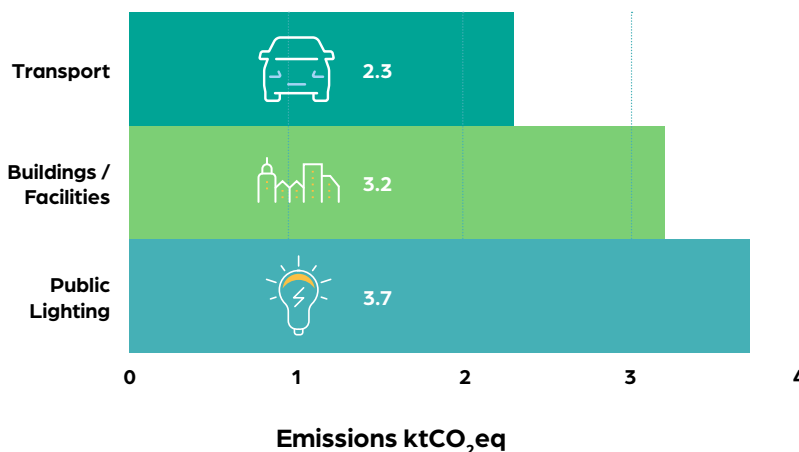


Figure 4.6: Breakdown of 2016 – 2018 GHG emissions in ktCO₂eq by the Council – split by significant energy use category

The TEA provides support services for management of energy related GHG emissions to the Council. Through the application of the SEAI's 'Gap to Target Tool'¹ they have indicated a pathway for emissions reductions for the Council to 2030 to achieve their emissions reduction from the baseline as required by the Climate Action Plan 2021. This is a key action of the Council as set out in this LACAP (Actions 30, 31 and 32).

¹ SEAI Gap-to-Target Model – CARO





5.1 LACAP Vision

The Guidelines require the Council to identify an 'Overarching Vision' that reflects the shared perspective of a 'climate resilient and climate neutral future' for Tipperary. This vision is set out below:

Vision

Tipperary County Council will, through the delivery of this LACAP and its Actions as they apply across all of its services and functions, support the National Climate Objective to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy in county Tipperary.



SETTING THE SCENE FOR GOING GREEN
Environment and Climate Action

5.2 LACAP Mission

The Guidelines also require the Vision to be supported by a 'Mission' that speaks practically to the purpose of the local authority in delivering effective climate action.



5.3 Themes and Strategic Goals



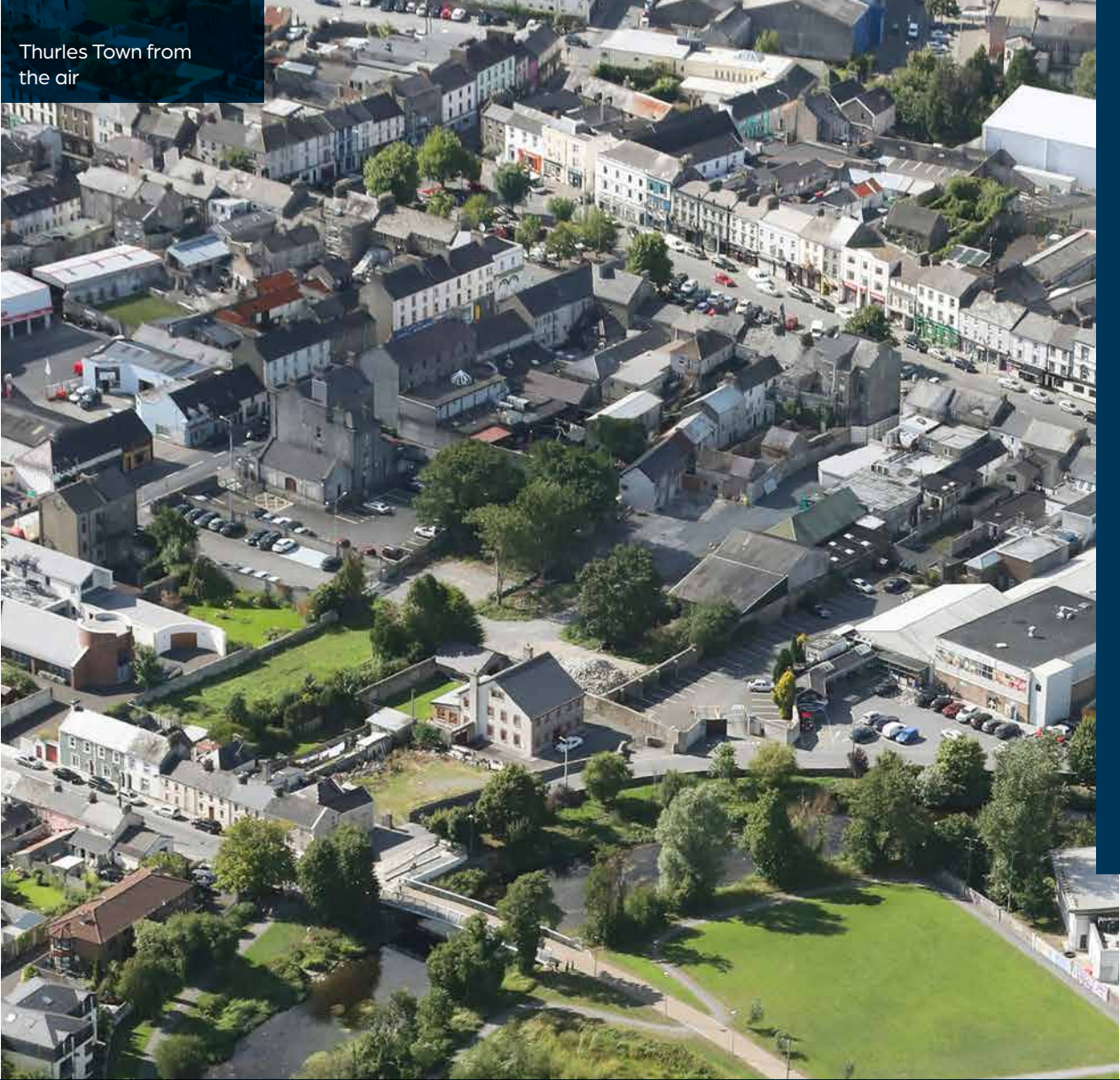
Strategic Goals set out the context for climate actions and establish a structured or thematic arrangement of actions. These have been aligned with the strategic goals, objectives and actions of the local government strategy 'Delivering Effective Climate Action' (County and City Managers Association, 2021)¹.

The Council has set out nine Strategic Goals under five themes for its LACAP. These form the framework under which climate actions have been developed, and reflect the council's own services and functions, and its broader role in facilitating, ad-

vocating and influencing for climate action across other sectors and communities. The five themes are:

- » Governance and Leadership (Strategic Goals 1 and 2)
- » Built Environment and Transport (Strategic Goals 3 and 4)
- » Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure (Strategic Goal 5)
- » Communities: Resilience and Just Transition (Strategic Goals 6 and 7)
- » Sustainability and Resource Management (Strategic Goals 8 and 9)

¹ [Delivering-effective-climate-action-2030.pdf \(lgma.ie\)](#)



5.4 Summary of Climate Actions

In climate action development, the Climate Action Team has sought to ensure that they are consistent with the principles, strategic goals, objectives and actions of the local government strategy 'Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030' (CCMA, 2021). Under this strategy local authorities are committed to an ambitious set of shared strategic goals and key objectives.

Strategic Goal 1: Fostering Governance, Leadership and Partnership for Climate Action

Strategic Goal 2: Achieve Carbon Emission and Energy Efficiency Targets for 2030 and 2050

Strategic Goal 3: Deliver on Climate Adaptation and Climate Resilience

Strategic Goal 4: Mobilise Climate Action in Local Communities

Strategic Goal 5: Mobilise Climate Action in Enterprise and support Transition to an Inclusive, Net Zero and Circular Economy

Strategic Goal 6: Achieve a 'Just Transition' particularly for Communities that may be Economically Disadvantaged by Decarbonising Projects



LACAP Strategic Goals

- 1 To show leadership and ambition in 'Setting the Scene for Going Green' by achieving our own 50% energy efficiency target by 2030, by mainstreaming climate action (mitigation and adaptation) and governance change and awareness across our services, by seeking to influence local and national policy using this leadership position, and by developing, piloting and supporting innovation for transformative decarbonisation and climate action projects.
- 2 Protect our assets and critical infrastructure from extreme weather events, and to ensure a co-ordinated and resourced emergency response from all climate related emergencies and events, including flooding.
- 3 To achieve our own 51% greenhouse gas emission reductions target by 2030 through an increase in the use of renewable energy sources and increased energy efficiency throughout our housing, offices, infrastructure and transport fleet in line with national 2030 and 2050 targets.
- 4 Through our spatial planning policy and objectives support the Core Strategy of the Tipperary County Development Plan (and any review thereof), having consideration to core objectives as they relate to sustainable development and a Just Transition, including aspects such as Town Centre First, Active Travel, Sustainable Energy and Compact Development etc
- 5 Promote and protect our environment, and its biodiversity and water catchments as key enablers of climate adaptation and mitigation across the county through the delivery of sustainable services, including those with a focus on nature-based solutions, in collaboration with sectors and communities
- 6 Build capacity and readiness with communities and other strategic partners for transformative climate action and a 'Just Transition', using capacity building programmes, policy/financial instruments and local development and wellbeing programmes, and to promote climate action and green skills in training and education in partnership with Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs).
- 7 Embed climate change and the circular economy approach in implementation of all local economic development strategies and plans for example, the Local Economic and Community Plan, Local Development Strategy etc.
- 8 Enable the development of a circular economy across sectors and communities based on sustainable practices using renewable and carbon neutral technology and to increase the proportion of green procurement so we can influence, measure and reduce emissions from the production, transportation and disposal of goods and services we procure and use and enable a circular economy through our own actions.
- 9 Influence, co-ordinate, facilitate and advocate for other agencies, sectors and communities wherever feasible through the delivery of our services and in the implementation of other sectoral plans at local level.

“

Local authorities are committed to an ambitious set of shared strategic goals and key objectives

DECA Strategic Goal	DECA Principle	Corresponding LACAP Actions ¹
1	Setting and, where necessary, reframing, objectives and targets in line with the latest science, national climate policy and international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement	14,26,34,47,56,57,58,80
2	Ensuring that everyone who lives, works and studies within the local authority area is supported and incentivised to engage in climate actions through appropriate infrastructure, and is provided with clear communications, as well as coherent regulations and standards	1,2,8,10,15,16,69,70,71,72, 73,75,76,77,78,79,83,85,86,87 93,98,
3	Ensuring that local authority decisions and City and County Development Plans are climate-proofed and that development plans contribute to wider sustainable development goals (social, environmental and economic)	3,9,17,21,30,31,32,49,50 51,52,53,64,65,82,84,
4	Look for opportunities to address climate change across the full range of services provided by local authorities, with a particular focus on land-use planning, nature-based solutions, retrofitting of social housing stock and sustainable transport.	6,7,13,19,22,24,27, 28,33,35,37,38,39,44 45,48,55,60,61,63,81, 89,90 91,92,94,95,100
5	Ensuring that a 'just transition' is at the heart of our approach and it is inclusive of everyone, young and old	5,18,20,36,41,42,43,46 54,62,66,67,68,96,97,99
6	Monitoring progress and ensuring that evidence, data and guidance are provided by and sought from independent experts and international best practice.	4,11,12,23,25,29,40,59, 74,88

¹ Whilst climate actions have been allocated to a single strategic goal, many of them will also contribute to other strategic goals.

Table 5.1: Principles of Delivering Effective Climate Action and corresponding Actions

The 100 Climate Actions have been developed by the Climate Action Team, under the co-ordination of the Climate Action Office and the approval of the Climate Action Steering Group.

Actions are wide-ranging and reflective of the broad range of services and functions that the Council provides as set out in Section 3.2, and noting the 'Themes' outlined. Where appropriate, co-benefits like enhanced biodiversity, health improvements, increased environmental sustainability, green job creation or economic benefits have been actively considered.

Both 'inward' and 'outward' facing actions are set out and the Councils inward facing climate actions are generally included under Strategic Goals no.1- 3. Each action is assigned to a Lead Department, to facilitate monitoring and delivery, and partners and dependencies are also identified.

Mitigation actions are focused on the Council's own infrastructure and assets, and other key sectors within the Council area that have been identified as having high emissions and where the influence of the Council

might result in reduction potential by 2030 in the short term, and through to 2050.

Adaptation actions are focused on reducing risk and building resilience at organisational level and within communities that are most vulnerable to climate hazards between now and 2050. Mitigation and adaptation actions have been considered in an integrated way to maximise efficiencies and the social, environmental and economic benefits to local communities and minimise negative interactions, outcomes and risks to investment.

The delivery of all of the actions outlined in Section 6 Tipperary DZ and Appendix 1, shall be subject to the policy and development management standards as outlined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (and any review thereof). In particular, the Council will ensure that all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements.



06

Tipperary Decarbonising Zone



6.1 Introduction to Decarbonising Zones

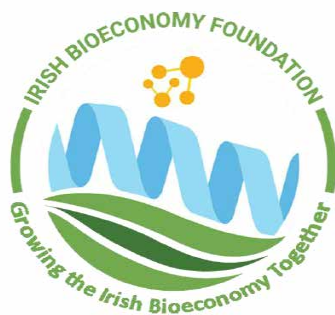
The National Climate Action Plan (DECC,2019) (Action 165) states that each local authority in Ireland is required to identify and develop plans for one DZ within their respective administrative area.

A DZ is a spatial area, in which a range of potential climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures are identified. It is the purpose of the DZs to act as a demonstration area for possible decarbonising and positive climate action at a local and community level. A 'Register of Opportunities' and 'Actions' are to be set out to help deliver this objective.

Within the DZ area, it is the purpose of local authorities to work collaboratively with

stakeholders and communities, and help to promote exploration, co-creativity, innovation and new learnings in delivering climate action, as well as the economic and social benefits of decarbonising, such as just transition and health.

In terms of mandatory sectoral emission reductions targets, there is no difference between the parts of the county inside or outside of DZ zones, rather it is the purpose to assist and enable communities and stakeholders to undertake to a range of collaborative climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures.



6.2 The Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone

6.2.1 Context and Character

The Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone is centred around the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen, and encompasses a wide rural hinterland that incorporates parts of both the Thurles and Carrick on Suir Municipal Districts.

The entire DZ area is located in the EU JTF area. The Mid-Tipperary DZ was designated by the Council in 2021 and subsequent-

ly was incorporated as an objective of the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028¹.

The Mid-Tipperary DZ is the only inland, rural DZ in the country, and this designation will bring opportunities for this area, for Tipperary and for the region.

Section 6.4 sets out a detailed profile for the Mid-Tipperary DZ area.

¹ Tipperary County Development Plan 2022- 2028 | Tipperary County Council (tipperarycoco.ie)

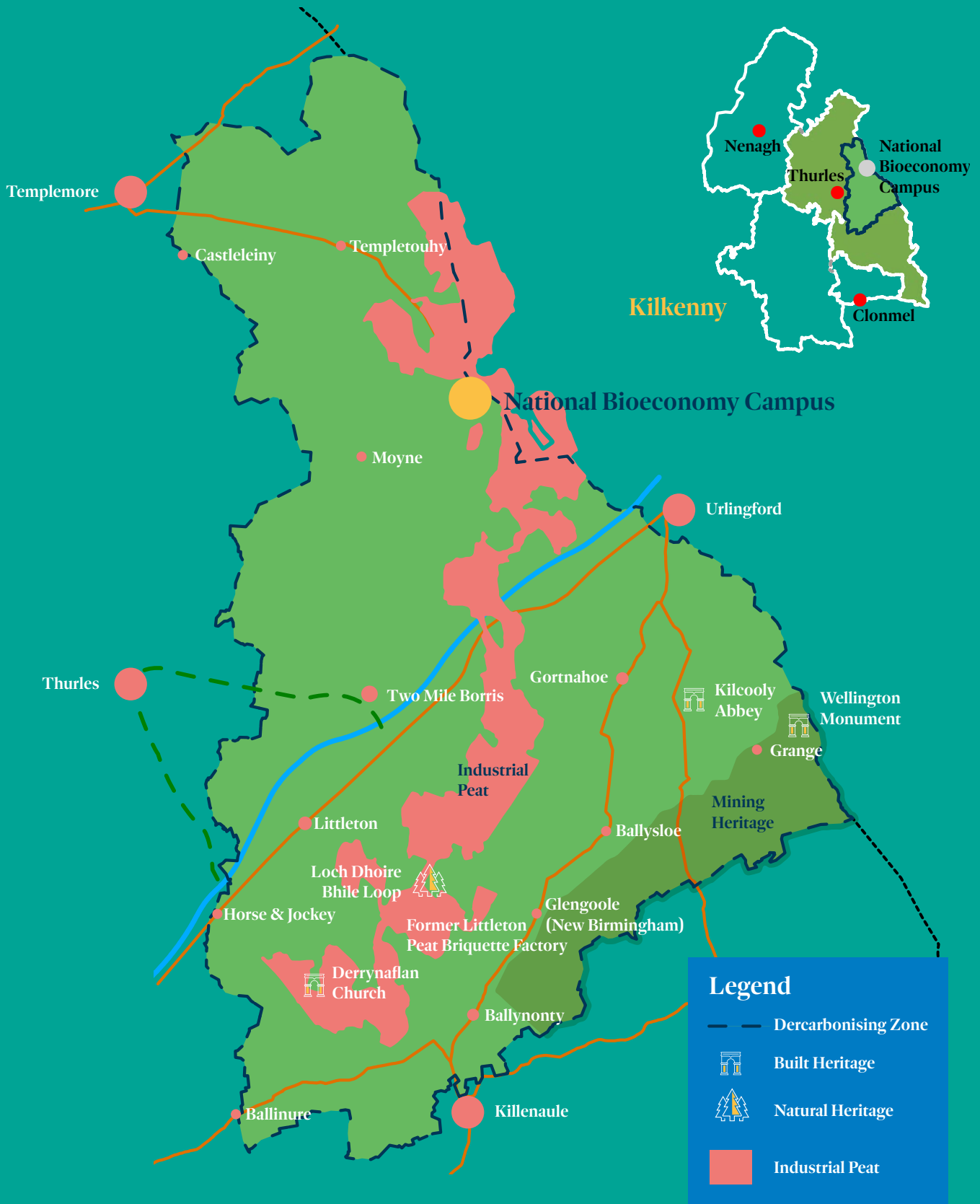


Figure 6.1: Mid-Tipperary DZ Area (Insert Map shows the Just Transition Fund Area)

6.2.2 Role of the Council

As stated in Section 1.3, the Council has no statutory remit over other sectors, for example agriculture, transport, industry etc, in their delivery of their own emissions reductions targets.

Rather, in activating DZ Opportunities and Actions, the Council has been tasked with seeking, through the delivery of its own services and functions to collaborate with stakeholders and the community to help co-ordinate opportunities for low-emis-

sions, progressive and sustainable development utilising the unique rural assets of the area.

DZ actions outside the remit of the Council are to be delivered by a collaborative approach through existing networks and organisations, each with a public facing role. The Council will support an outward facing stakeholder group, for example, 'SustainableTipp' to help support and co-ordinate public outreach through existing networks and organisations.



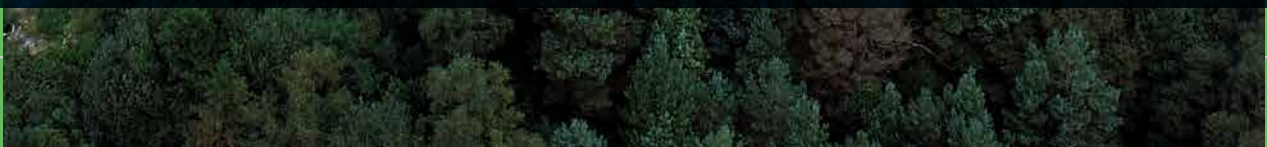
6.3 Stakeholders and Funding Supports

In order to help co-ordinate opportunities for low-emissions, progressive and sustainable development in the DZ, the Council has commenced the process of identifying stakeholders and groups who may be able to support and contribute to the delivery of opportunities and actions set out. This process will continue to evolve and develop over the lifetime of the LACAP, however, at this early stage the stakeholders¹ listed

in Table 6.1 have been identified to support action delivery. It is expected that this list will continue to expand and evolve.

To support public consultation and participation, a list of the key stakeholders and their individual contact details, details of grant and support programmes is currently being compiled, and will be made available on the Council Climate Action webpage.

¹ Each of these stakeholders also provide the same services and support to areas outside of the DZ area



Stakeholders	How they can contribute and support the delivery of DZ Actions
Relevant Council Services	Offer support and co-ordination and advocate on behalf of stakeholders, including funding through the CCAF. Other important county council services for the area include: The LEO, Community and Economic Services, Planning, Roads and Transport, Local Authorities Waters Programme, Cultural and Heritage Services, Tourism services etc
County Councillors	Local Councillors can offer support and guidance
Tipperary PPN	Help spread the message and get the word out to communities and groups
North Tipperary Development Company and South Tipperary Development Company	North Tipperary Development Company and South Tipperary Development Company Offer funding and supports to communities and businesses in the area, for example the LEADER programme and the SICAP
Teagasc	Offer guidance, funding and supports to farming communities for example the 'Signpost Programme'
SEAI	The national agency for energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate action in Ireland. Provides services, grants, supports, news and research for homes, businesses and public sector.
EcoVision	A community led, home insulation upgrade and retrofitting organisation.
Irish Bioeconomy Foundation	Located at the former Lisheen mine complex, working to progress the potential of the Irish Bioeconomy which covers all economic and social sectors.
Fáilte Ireland	National Tourism Development Authority , provides a range of practical support and advice to Irish tourism businesses.
Bord na Mona	A company that works on clean energy, recycling, waste and peatland restoration in Ireland. It aims to help Ireland reach net zero emissions by 2050 and to return raised bogs to peat-forming conditions so they can store carbon
Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly	The Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly manage the Just Transition Fund programme
Coillte	Run three high potential businesses, Forestry, Land Solutions and Medite Smartply, and seek to balance and deliver the multiple benefits of forests to society
CARO	Regional support and information on funding programmes
DFAM	Ongoing and emerging supports for agriculture, land-use diversification, carbon sequestration and the bioeconomy.
Local Link Tipperary	Local transport operator
All others	There are a very wide range of stakeholders and supports that provide services related to climate action access the entire county, for example, the Green Schools Programme, Tidy Towns, farming organisations, tourism groups, TEA, non-governmental organisations, private enterprises, social enterprises in the area etc

Table: 6.1 Stakeholders in the Mid Tipperary DZ (Non-exhaustive list)

6.4 Emissions and Socio-Economic Profile

A detailed 'Baseline Emissions Summary and Socio-Economic Profile' for the DZ has been prepared to support this LACAP, this is available to view on the Council webpage for climate action. The Baseline Emissions results are used to help identify areas where actions were needed within the DZ area and will set a baseline to monitor emissions reductions.

6.4.1 Socio-Economic Profile

The Mid-Tipperary DZ is a rural area east of Thurles town containing a network of 12 villages and is an area of approximately 300kmsq. According to the 2016 Census, the population of the area is just over 7,000 persons. There are 10 national schools within the area and the nearest secondary schools are located in nearby settlements of Templemore, Thurles, Killenaule and Ballingarry. The villages in the area and their populations (where available) are listed below.

1. Two Mile Borris (572)
2. Littleton (394)
3. Gortnahoo (286)
4. Templetohy (282)
5. Ballynonty (152)
6. Horse & Jockey
7. Moyne
8. Castleleiny
9. Glengoolie (New Birmingham)
10. Ballysloe
11. Ballinure
12. Grange

The predominant land cover type is grassland and peat bogs, accounting for approximately 84% of land area. A number of rivers flow through the DZ including the Black River, River Goul, River Breaghagh, and the River Drish. In Tipperary, nearly 11% of the workforce are employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing, this is likely to be higher in the Mid-Tipperary area. This is more than double the national average and illustrates the importance of this sector to the county.

The area has a rich and diverse archaeological heritage. The ruins of the Derrynaflan Church are located to the south-east and the 9th century AD Derrynaflan Chalice was found here in 1980. The Slieveardagh Hills lie in the south-east of the area, where the Wellington Monument provides an excellent viewpoint. The Kilcooly Estate, an 18th century country house and Cistercian Abbey, is located just west of the hills.

Access to the national Dublin – Cork rail line is at Thurles and Templemore rail stations, the M8 motorway provides excellent linkages with Dublin and Cork, and there is an extensive network of local and regional roads within the area.

The area has had a varied and interesting industrial past. For approximately 200 years coal was mined in the Slieveardagh Hills up until the mid-1980s. Bord na Mona produced peat briquettes in their Littleton factory up to 2017. Lead and Zinc was mined for 15 years at Lisheen employing 400 people up to 2015.

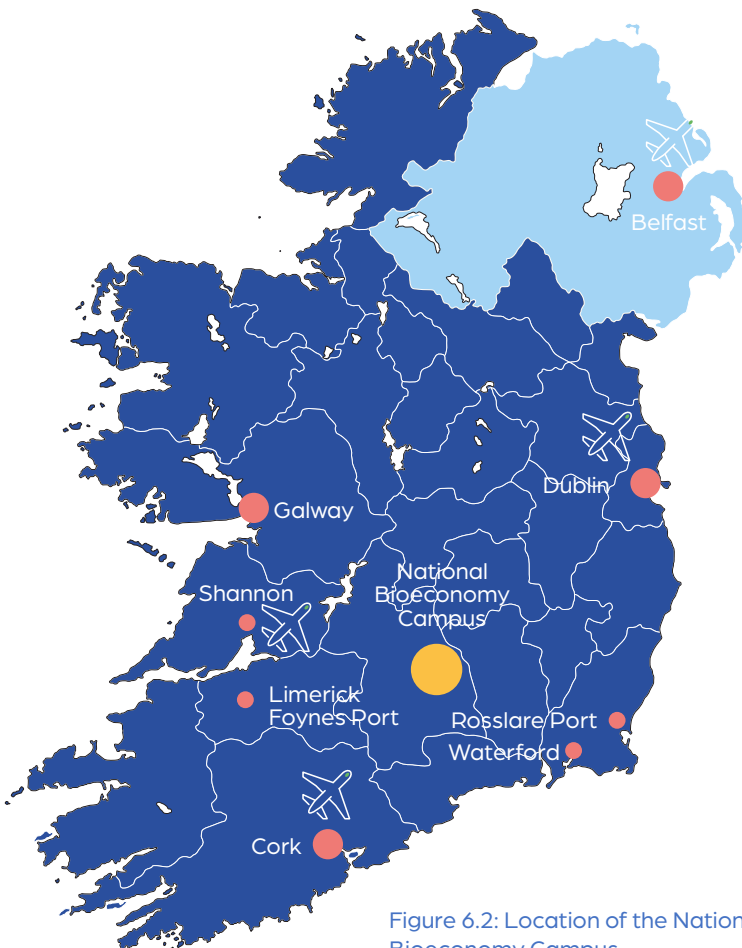


Figure 6.2: Location of the National Bioeconomy Campus



Figure 6.3: National Bioeconomy Campus located at the former Lisheen Mine, Thurles

The IBF and partners, including Tipperary County Council and the TUS, is developing a National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen, Co. Tipperary – with a view to exploiting the significant opportunities which existed to produce high-value bio-based chemicals from domestically available low-value biomass residues. The Council are currently working on a masterplan to guide development of the National Bioeconomy Campus and associated investment priorities. For further detail on the National Bioeconomy Campus, refer to section 3.3.

The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 to 2028 recognises the potential for tourism within the area, and there has been some early stage consideration by Bord na Mona and the Council to tourism in the area including a proposed 'Littleton Labyrinth Greenway' and 'Bushcraft Survival and Activity Park'. The proposed greenway, if developed, could bring tourism to the area, and its footfall could benefit the local economy. The proposed Tipperary Bushcraft Survival and Activity Park in Littleton could include adventure activities and camping facilities. This ecotourism hub, if developed will conserve and protect the surrounding

natural habitats, boost the local economy, whilst also raising environmental awareness.

The area is playing its part in decarbonising the electricity sector through the deployment of renewable energy technologies. There are 30 wind turbines operating in the area and a 110KV interconnector at Lisheen. Most of existing wind turbines are concentrated around the National Bioeconomy Campus. The Tipperary Renewable Energy Strategy (TCC, 2016), also identifies that a significant part of the area is 'open for consideration' for wind energy development', subject to planning permission. There is also planning permission for three solar farms in the area. The solar energy development proposed for Lisheen has a potential to generate 122 Mega Watts of electricity.

There is currently no electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the area (closest at present is in Killenaule). The nearest charging points are located in Thurles and Urlingford. There are funding streams, for example the EU JTF, to support the roll out of EV charging infrastructure.

There is an opportunity and a need to improve the electrical grid in the area in conjunction with Eirgrid, to support the development of green electricity and the role out of EV charging infrastructure to maximise the potential emission reductions in the area.

The entirety of the Mid-Tipperary DZ is located within an area eligible for EU Just Transition funding (further detail set out in Section 7.3).

6.4.2 Baseline Emissions Summary

The purpose of a BEI is to provide an overview of an area's total carbon emissions at a point in time. The BEI prepared for the Mid-Tipperary DZ highlights the emission sources within the area and will help the community to understand their own emissions sources.

Total carbon emissions in the area equate to approximately 229,862 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). This translates to 32.18 tCO₂e per capita based on 2016 census population data. In 2018, Ireland's national carbon emissions equated to approximately 12.6 tCO₂e per capita. While the DZ's carbon emissions per capita is higher than the national equivalent, Ireland is higher than the EU average of 8.2 tCO₂e per capita.

The higher than national average per capita emissions for the Mid-Tipperary DZ can be attributed to the rural nature of the DZ, with sparse population for the land area and prominence of the agricultural activities in the region.

Agriculture

Agriculture, as an important part of economic activity and employment accounts for a large proportion of the DZ area's total carbon emissions. The National Climate Action Plan 2023 supports land use diversification for livestock farmers, such as anaerobic digestion, forestry and tillage to incentivise voluntary livestock reductions.

The Rural Development Programme (DAFM, 2014) supports agriculture, sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, and balanced development of rural economies and communities. Agriculture is the most important economic sector in the DZ area, is an important contributor to positive climate action and support for sustainable farming in the area will occur through organisations such as Teagasc, DFAM, LAWPRO etc.

Land-use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

LULUCF can either emit or remove GHG's and the management of agricultural ecosystems, such as grasslands and peatlands, has a direct impact on whether or not it acts as a net carbon sink or net emitter of carbon emissions.

Notably, this sector is currently a net GHG emitter in the DZ area, and thus, this is an important area for climate mitigation measures. For example, alternative land management measures such as raising the water table in existing pastures and peatlands, new crop types, forestry etc could make this sector a net remover of GHGs.

Nature-based solutions could also be used in the management of land that would have co-benefits for biodiversity, water quality and tourism.

Support measures include the promotion of agroforestry and 'neighbourhoods' and the Teagasc 'Native Woodland Scheme'. There are opportunities in this area that can be collaboratively explored, for example, the diversification of peatlands, e.g. through the development of renewable energy initiatives and/or tourism related facilities, whilst ensuring the conservation of their ecological, archaeological, cultural and educational significance in line with the National Peatlands Strategy (DAHG, 2015).

Total carbon emissions in the DZ area

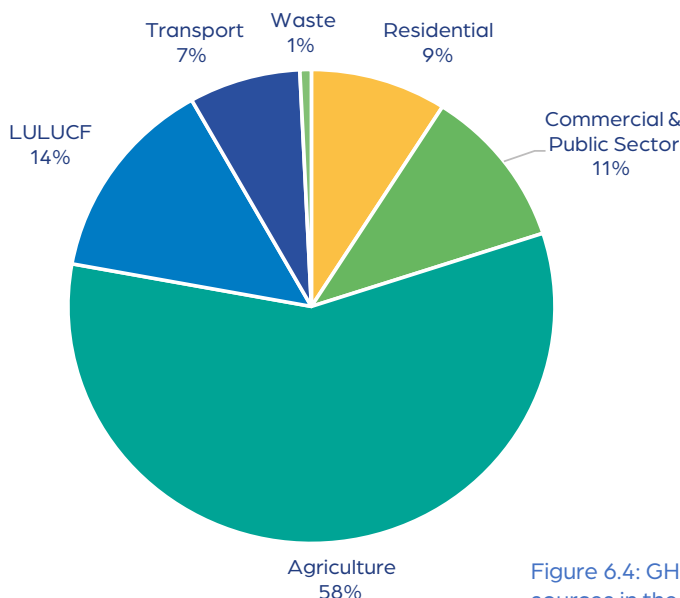


Figure 6.4: GHG emissions sources in the area



There is an opportunity for the National Bioeconomy Campus to become an innovator in the circular economy, piloting and commercialising circular economy initiatives that if implemented will lower GHG emissions and reduce waste both in the area and beyond.

Commercial and Public Sector

Heating and electricity are the main source of emissions in the commercial and public sectors. Emission reductions can be achieved by retrofitting existing buildings to make them more efficient and by converting from fossil fuel to renewables.

Vacant properties can present opportunities for reuse and redevelopment as new homes and businesses. The Council encourages, through collaboration and support, for example, through the 'Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme', and the maintenance and active use of town/village centre buildings. Furthermore, the Council, and stakeholders such as the SEAI, North and South Tipperary Development Companies etc can support owners of vacant properties through grant schemes.

Residential Sector

Heating and electricity are the main source of emissions in people's homes. Reductions can be achieved through, retrofitting, converting to renewables and energy management. There are many available funding programmes, for example; SEAI, retrofitting grants and local authority led retrofitting schemes that can help reduce emissions from this sector. Energy efficiency opportu-

nities should be explored, including the use of heat pumps and other renewable energy sources to support the decarbonisation of homes in DZ area as well as to contribute to wider national energy and climate targets.

Transport Sector

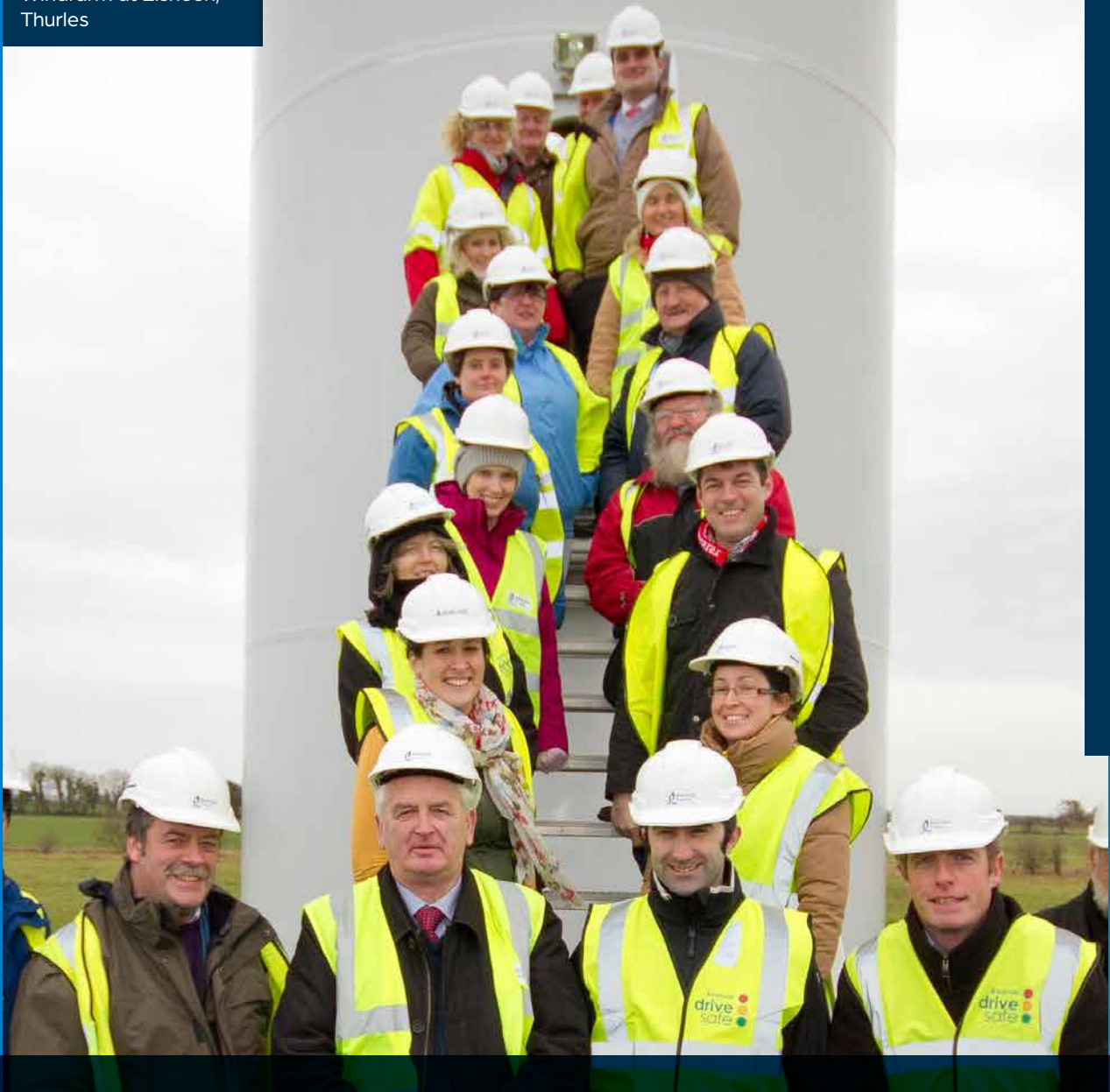
In the DZ area, the private car is heavily relied on as the main form of transport. Buses are the key public transport mode within the study area with several public and private operators. Bus stops at 10 locations are noted in the DZ area. The DZ is a rural area, with low public transport and active travel options, however, where feasible, the Council can help advocate for sustainable transport with stakeholders such as 'Local Link' and Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI)¹, for example, through EV infrastructure investment, Local Link Bus routes etc.

Waste Sector

The production and consumption of goods generates waste. There is an opportunity for the National Bioeconomy Campus to become an innovator in the circular economy, piloting and commercialising circular economy initiatives that if implemented will lower GHG emissions and reduce waste both in the area and beyond.

¹ gov.ie - Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (www.gov.ie)

County Councillors and officials visit the Windfarm at Lisheen, Thurles



6.5 Vision, Opportunities and Actions

Vision

A unique, thriving low carbon rural community in a biodiversity rich landscape. Built on a foundation of sustainable bioeconomy, land use diversification, energy efficient and biodiverse agriculture, renewable energy, eco-tourism and connected, equal and vibrant communities. Where communities and businesses will be empowered to adapt to the impacts of climate change and embrace methods and technologies to reduce Green House Gas emissions.

6.5.2 Opportunities and Actions

The Tipperary DZ is unique as the only inland rural DZ in the country, and will, in conjunction with funding supports and stakeholder programmes, for example, the EU JTF, the LEADER programme etc and through the collaborative delivery of opportunities and actions offer opportunities to local communities, farmers and businesses. Due to the focus of this unique DZ on a rural and agricultural area, there are range of positive, emerging and innovative areas to be explored, such as the bioeconomy (National Bioeconomy Campus), sustainable tourism, sustainable energy communities, sustainable transport and land use diversification. In particular, there are a wide range of new programmes and supports relevant to the area and its designation. These include grants and schemes for example; a Carbon Farming Framework for Ireland (DFAM, 2023), a Draft Biomethane Strategy for Ireland (DFAM, 2024) and a Bioeconomy Action Plan (DFAM, 2023) etc.

The LACAP has set out a framework for the delivery of this vision by the inclusion of the Mid-Tipperary DZ as an area for focus on a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity opportunity measures.

The LACAP includes a 'Register of Opportunities' for the DZ area. There are ten opportunity areas identified. Proactive and positive 'Actions' are set out under each of the opportunity areas. The actions comprise a portfolio of actions, projects, technologies and interventions to help deliver on the national climate objective at local level through responses that include mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity actions.

Delivery of these actions will only be possible through a collaborative, participative and supportive approach involving the local communities, business networks in the area and stakeholders and SustainableTipp will have a key role in this. In addition, an internal DZ working group has been set up within the Local Authority to support action delivery through Council services. Consideration will also be had to existing and emerging guidance from CARO relating DZ development and support across the country.

If delivered, these actions could support this area and its community to become a more climate aware, resilient and exemplar community, leading the way for the rest of the county and the country.

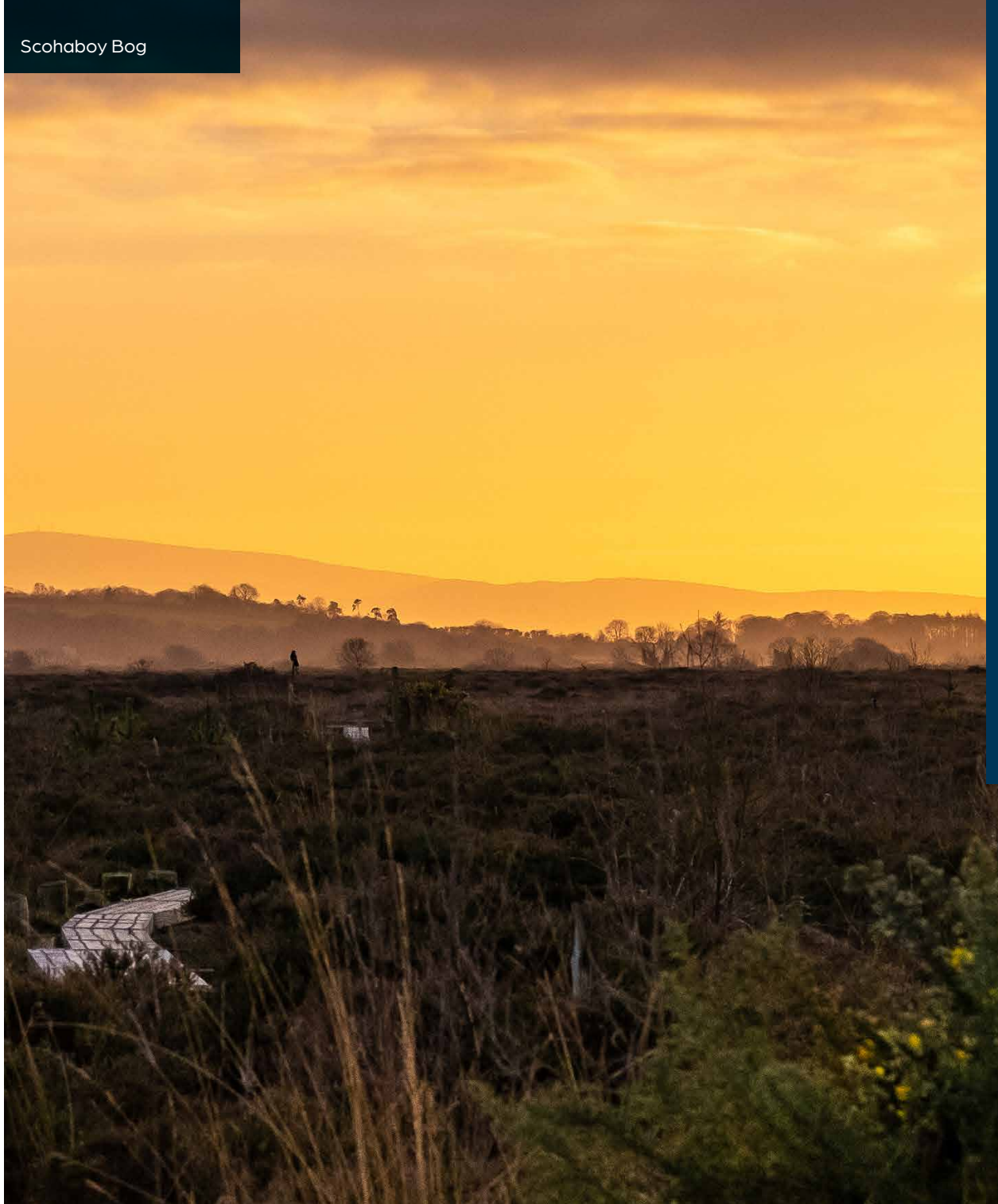
6.6 Emissions Management

It is a primary purpose of the DZ designation to enable and support active emissions reductions.

The Mid-Tipperary DZ Baseline Emission figure was calculated as 229,862 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). This translates to 32.18 tCO₂e per capita based on 2016 census population data. In 2018, Ireland's national carbon emissions equated to approximately 12.6 tCO₂e per capita. While the DZ's carbon emissions per capita is higher than the national equivalent, this can be attributed to the rural nature of the DZ, with sparse population for the land area and prominence of the agricultural activities in the region.

In line with the national Climate Action Plan, each of these sectors collaboratively must achieve the national emissions reduction target, and it is the purpose of the opportunities outlined in this report to actively support this national emissions reduction objective.

The quantification the emission factors associated with interventions is important in the context of the overall baseline for the area to establish progress to decarbonisation. In this respect, as the opportunities and actions are developed and implemented, there will be an expectation that emissions reductions can be achieved as a result of interventions, and where practical, efforts will be made to measure and monitor decarbonisation.



Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	
Residential	20,820
Commercial & Public Sector	25,218
Transport	17,073
Waste	1,450
Agriculture	133,214
LULUCF	32,087
Total carbon emissions	229,862

Table 6.2: Carbon Emissions in the DZ

6.7 Mid-Tipperary DZ ‘Register of Opportunities’

No.	Opportunity	Time horizon	Focus	Possible funding/ support sources	Status
1	Support and promote the development of the National Bioeconomy Campus located at Lisheen, Co. Tipperary whilst ensuring that bioeconomy related development and activities promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Immediate and ongoing	Sustainable development and employment based on the development of the bio-economy on a regional basis, to support research and development in relation to the bioeconomy, the circular economy, waste management and sustainable energy sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » EU/Distributive Technologies » Demonstration Initiative Scheme » EU JTF, DFAM, Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly. 	Commenced
2	Support and enable the villages in the area to participate in a village network, to help them access supports such as the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs), ‘Energy Communities Tipperary Co-operative’ and similar collaborative actions to facilitate climate action, village regeneration, retrofitting, active travel, biodiversity, community and economic development etc.	Immediate and ongoing	To enable and support vibrant villages and communities in the area, with a good quality of life and a focus on reduced GHG emissions through various measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » SEAI » LEADER » EU JTF » Community Climate Action Fund etc. » South Tipperary and North Tipperary Development Companies » SEAI SECs » Renewable Electricity Support Scheme 	Commenced
3	Actively seek funding through the EU JTF programme.	Immediate and ongoing	The relevant funding streams of the EU JTF programme with a Climate Action Focus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » EU JTF 	Subject to separate launch dates under various streams
4	Enable sustainable renewable energy development, research and development in the area both at the commercial and community scale and advocate for grid capacity enhancement that can accommodate new investment in renewable energy development whilst ensuring that such development adheres to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria.	Immediate and ongoing	To proactively enable sustainable renewable energy development in the area in accordance with the provisions of the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 and any review thereof.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » EU science foundation and horizon 2020 (linked with Opportunity 1) » Other funding streams as they arise. 	To be progressed over the lifetime of the LACAP noting that investment in the national grid capacity is a key dependency.
5	Roll-out LACAP initiatives in the area.	Immediate and ongoing	Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures delivered through council services and functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » As set out the LACAP Actions 	As set out the LACAP
6	Co-ordinate multi-agency collaboration through stakeholder (local authority and external) identification and the maintenance of a collaborative, targeted and active stakeholder group.	Early 2024	To focus on effective climate change mitigation and adaptation through shared learning and collaboration and to support delivery of Opportunities and Actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Existing and emerging funding streams. 	Stakeholder group to be identified and co-ordinated by Tipperary County Council

No.	Opportunity	Time horizon	Focus	Possible funding/ support sources	Status
7	Advocate for sustainable travel and mobility in the area, and the better connectivity of the area with regional and national transport networks, whilst ensuring that such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Immediate and ongoing	Sustainable Travel and Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » JTF » ZEVI » National Transport Authority » South Tipperary and North Tipperary Development Companies, » Sustainable Energy Communities (SEAI) » Transport for Ireland 	To be progressed over the lifetime of the LACAP
8	Help to support and build overall awareness (community, public and businesses) and capacity around positive and effective climate actions that they can undertake in the area.	Immediate and ongoing	Community and public awareness and capacity around positive and effective climate action and change making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » SEAI » LEADER » LEO » Town and Village Renewal » CCAF » South Tipperary and North Tipperary Development Companies, » SEAI SECs, » Tipperary Education and Training Board 	To be progressed over the lifetime of the LACAP
9	Consider the development and implementation of a collaborative/innovative approach to nature-based and biodiversity rich land-use solutions in the area, including opportunities to consider on a catchment (or otherwise) basis to support water quality improvement, carbon capture, peatland restoration, land use diversification and flood risk management.	Immediate and ongoing	Nature-based and biodiversity rich solutions on a catchment basis to support water quality improvement, carbon capture, land use diversification and flood risk management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » EU JTF » DFAM » LAWPRO » EPA » Teagasc » Existing and emerging funding streams » Bord na Mona 	To be progressed over the lifetime of the LACAP
10	Support Sustainable Tourism in the area using the natural, cultural and historical assets of the area, whilst having due regard for environmental sensitivities including biodiversity and European sites.	Immediate and ongoing	To enable and support employment and communities in the area with a good quality of life and focus on reduced GHG emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (TCAGSM) » EU JTF » Fáilte Ireland » Bord na Mona 	To be progressed over the lifetime of the LACAP

Table 6.3 Mid-Tipperary Register of Opportunities

6.8 Mid-Tipperary DZ Actions

No.	Opportunity	Action	Local Authority Action Lead
1	Support and promote the development of the National Bioeconomy Campus located at Lisheen, Co. Tipperary.	1.1. Develop a Masterplan to guide development of the National Bioeconomy Campus and associated investment priorities.	Planning and Development
		1.2 Explore options for synergy between the National Bioeconomy Campus and local communities e.g. through district heating, power generation, land use diversification etc, whilst ensuring that all associated development has due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population.	Economic, Community and Rural Development Supported by Economic, Community and Rural Development
		1.3. Maximise funding opportunities through EU JTF and other available programmes to realise the vision and support investment in the National Bioeconomy Campus.	Economic, Community and Rural Development Supported by Economic, Community and Rural Development
		1.4. Enhance information sharing with respect to the National Bioeconomy Campus both nationally and locally.	Economic, Community and Rural Development
2	Support and enable the villages in the area to participate in a village network, to help them access supports such as the SEAI SECs, Energy Communities Tipperary Co-operative and similar collaborative actions to facilitate climate action, village regeneration, active travel, biodiversity, community and economic development etc.	2.1. Work with the PPN and other stakeholders in the area to help share information and encourage participation in village networks, funding programmes and events.	Environment and Climate Action
		2.2. Host at least one community event per year to showcase support measures available and to facilitate community and stakeholder activation.	Environment and Climate Action Supported by Thurles and Carrick on Suir Municipal Districts
		2.3. Support the concept of village digitalisation/ smart villages initiative through funding sources, for example LEADER etc, whilst ensuring associated development works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not cause significant negative environmental effects.	Economic, Community and Rural Development
3	Actively seek funding through the EU JTF programme.	3.1. Support the delivery of funding under the EU FTF Programme.	Economic, Community and Rural Development Supported by the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly and the identified partners set out under the EU JTF
		3.2. Establishment of cross sectoral group in the Council to identify and pursue funding streams under the EU JTF Programme.	Economic, Community and Rural Development Supported by Thurles and Carrick on Suir Municipal Districts
		3.3. Funding opportunities under the EU JTF Programme to be maximised by the Council and its partners.	Economic, Community and Rural Development Supported by Thurles and Carrick on Suir Municipal Districts

No.	Opportunity	Action	Local Authority Action Lead
4	Enable sustainable renewable energy development, research and development in the area both at the commercial and community scale.	4.1. Offer pre-planning advice for renewable energy investments, including advise on planning policy, relevant development management standards and environmental protection requirements.	Planning and Development
		4.2. Investigate opportunities for shared learning for example in the area of Anaerobic Digestion (at Bio-economy Campus), bio-mass processing, renewable energy facilities for Local Authority staff, councillors and stakeholders to improve knowledge of this industry type.	Economic, Community and Rural Development (linked to Action 1.4) Supported by Environment and Climate Action
		4.3. The Council and partners to explore the feasibility of the development of a renewable energy development in the area with community partnership, whilst ensuring that any associated renewable energy development has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection criteria.	Environment and Climate Action
		4.4 Work with the Southern Regional Assembly on the EU Robin Project – an EU Project on governance structures/models for the Bioeconomy.	Planning and Development
5	Roll-out relevant LACAP initiatives in the area including existing programmes relating to public lighting, local authority housing retrofit programmes etc.	5.1 Refer to the LACAP Actions.	See relevant Lead Section as set out in LACAP
6	Co-ordinate multi-agency collaboration through stakeholder (local authority and external) identification and the maintenance of a collaborative, targeted and active stakeholder group.	6.1. Identify and co-ordinate a multi-agency stakeholder group to help activate the actions set out herein.	Environment and Climate Action Supported by Planning and Development and Economic, Community and Rural Development

No.	Opportunity	Action	Local Authority Action Lead
7	Advocate for sustainable travel and mobility in the area and the better connectivity of the area with regional and national transport networks.	7.1. Support 'Local Link' and other transport operators in decarbonising their fleet and supporting sustainable transport options in the area, whilst ensuring appropriate regard is had to the lifecycle impacts and sustainability of alternative fuel options.	Economic, Community and Rural Development Supported by Roads and Transportation
		7.2. With the support of the 'Green Schools Programme' ¹ (An Taisce) seek to carry out review of school travel patterns.	Economic, Community and Rural Development Supported by Environment and Climate Action
		7.3. Investigate the potential for better connectivity between area with Thurles (Rail and Bus Services).	Thurles Municipal District Supported by Environment and Climate Action
		7.4 Support the roll out EV charging points in the area using funding under the ZEVl programme, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.	Roads and Transportation
8	Help to support and build overall awareness (community, public and businesses) and capacity around positive and effective climate actions that they can undertake in the area.	8.1. Use existing community networks to build climate change awareness and capacity to positively react to challenges.	Economic, Community and Rural Development
		8.2. Fund one artist in residence in a primary school in the area to support schools to creatively engage with climate action.	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity.
		8.3. Deliver a creative climate project in the area through the Culture and Creativity Strategy ² (DT-CAGSM, 2023)	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity.
		8.4. Educational Programmes (Climate Action) run through Library and Museum.	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity.
		8.5. Build on the Green Schools Programme and seek to enable all schools in the area to participate in the programme.	Economic, Community and Rural Development
		8.6. Help to enable all businesses in the area to avail of LEO supports relating to sustainable and low-carbon investment and development.	Local Enterprise Office
		8.7. Support schools in the area to benefit from the 'Heritage in Schools' programme to promote climate issues, natural heritage, biodiversity and sustainability.	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity
		8.8. Consider, where appropriate, cross border initiatives with Kilkenny County Council.	Environment and Climate Action
		8.9. Identify at risk historic monuments within the area that could be prioritised for funding from the 'Community Monuments Fund'.	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity.

1 Green-Schools – Green-Schools (greenschoolsireland.org)

2 gov.ie – 31 Local Authorities commit to new Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Strategies (www.gov.ie)

No.	Opportunity	Action	Local Authority Action Lead
9	Consider the development and implementation of a collaborative/innovative approach to nature-based, land use diversification and biodiversity rich solutions, on a catchment basis to support water quality improvement, carbon capture, the bio-economy and flood risk management.	9.1. Consider in conjunction with the LAWPRO how positive and proactive mechanisms designed to support landowners in incorporating nature-based solutions on a catchment basis could be applied.	Environment and Climate Action Supported by LAWPRO
		9.2 Advocate for funding and supports to support land use diversification carbon capture, peatland restoration and nature-based solutions as a viable alternative in this area to help support sustainable income and land use management.	Environment and Climate Action Supported by LAWPRO
		9.3 Avail of relevant EU JTF and other funding sources to support projects that include for peatlands restoration, carbon capture, the bio-economy, and sustainable trail development, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.	Economic, Community and Rural Development
		9.4 Co-ordinate with stakeholders to seek opportunities for synergies between land use diversification and the National Bioeconomy Campus, whilst ensuring land use diversification activities that may be supported by this action do not result in unintended negative environmental effects.	Economic, Community and Rural Development Supported by Environment and Climate Action
10	Support Sustainable Tourism using the natural, cultural and historical assets of the area.	10.1 Help to support the development of low-carbon and sustainable tourism attractions in the area in conjunction with stakeholders, whilst having due regard for environmental sensitivities including biodiversity and European sites.	Economic, Community and Rural Development
		10.2 Help to consider the potential of parts of the area as a 'Dark Sky' zone as part of the low-carbon and sustainable tourism offering.	Economic, Community and Rural Development
		10.3 Help to consider the potential of the area as a vibrant zone for eco-tourism and slow tourism, having due regard to sensitivities including biodiversity, European sites and the receiving water environment.	Economic, Community and Rural Development
		10.4 Help to support and develop the area noting its unique cultural, industrial and mining past as a tourism experience, having due regard to all environmental sensitivities associated with the area, including sensitive heritage features.	Economic, Community and Rural Development

Table 6.4 Mid-Tipperary DZ Actions

07

Implementation, Funding and Reporting





7.1 Planning for Implementation

The delivery and implementation of the LACAP is the responsibility of the Climate Action Steering Group and the Climate Action Team, with support from the Climate

Action Office. Delivery of the LACAP will be monitored by action delivery (100 actions) and by a range of other reporting requirements.

7.2 Partnerships in Climate Action

Positive partnerships are crucial for proactive climate action in Tipperary in order to develop synergies and to ensure that co-benefits are delivered. Partnerships provide opportunities for collaboration on projects, shared learnings, technical support and leveraging of funding during the implementation of actions in the LACAP. The Council will continue to work collaboratively and in partnership with key stakeholders including, but not limited to; neighbouring local authorities of the Eastern and Midlands CARO, the TEA, the Local Authority Services National Training Group, the Southern Regional Assembly, the LGMA, the City and County Management Agency, the Tipperary PPN, Age Friendly Ireland, SustainableTipp, Comhairle na nOg, the South Tipperary and the North Tipperary Development Companies etc (Action 18).

As climate change is a transboundary challenge a regional approach will be supported by the local authorities in the south-east sub region (Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford and Wexford) whereby they can collaborate closely on the implementation of the LACAPs.

The Council has a long established and productive working relationship with the TEA, who provide services in energy management, funding support and research and development support.

The Council is already working collaboratively with the private sector identify economic opportunities, avail of funding streams and achieve Ireland's GHG reduction and climate neutrality targets. A good example of this, is the Council's partnership with the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen (Action 100) and collaboration with respect to the Atlantic Green Digital Basin (Action 89).

There are also benefits for the Council and county through partnerships with third level education institutes to help enhance service delivery and implement innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change. The Council has already an established partnership with the TUS, for example, in the Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy at Nenagh (Action 90) and other ongoing EU and national climate action research and development programmes (Action 80).

7.3 Funding Streams for Climate Action



Access to adequate funding for climate action projects, such as government grants, European funds, private sector investment and community co-financing is critical for climate action. While new climate action targeted funding calls may become available in the future, it is expected that established

funding bodies for example, the SEAI, the DECC, EU funding sources etc will introduce or increase the level of funding streams. However, the Council will continue to actively pursue new and existing funding opportunities from all sources to deliver climate action.

The CARO has developed an inventory of funding sources across the public and private sector for use by local authorities and community groups¹. The funding streams are grouped into the following categories:

- » Project Research Funding
- » Project Development Funding
- » Project Capital Funding
- » Community Gain, Philanthropic and Corporate Funding Source
- » Funding Services and Databases
- » EU JTF Funding.

Funding for local authority capital works, such as walking and cycling infrastructure, housing retrofitting, green and blue infrastructure development etc is allocated to the Council annually from central government. In addition, the Council has been very proactive in securing funding under national streams such as the 'Urban Regeneration and Development Fund' for specific projects, for example, the Regional Sports Centre, Clonmel and the River Ara Walk, Tipperary Town where nature-based solutions for surface water run-off feature. Examples of current funding streams are set out below, and it is expected that additional funding in new and emerging schemes for local authority-led climate action will become available over the lifetime of this LACAP.

¹ <https://www.caro.ie/>

7.3.1 SEAI 'Pathfinder Programme'

The Council has already demonstrated leadership in this area by taking on the lead authority role in the south-east with respect to the SEAI 'Pathfinder Programme' (Action 33). It is expected that this will assist the five local authorities with resource capability and capital funding support to identify, progress and deliver agreed public sector energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects in the region.

7.3.2 Retrofitting Programme for Social Housing

One of the key objectives of the Programme for Government is the target of retrofitting reaching over 500,000 homes by 2030, of which it is expected that approximately 36,500 of those will be local authority owned homes. The 'Energy Efficiency Retrofitting' programme provides annual funding to Tipperary County Council for housing retrofits, and homes retrofitted under this programme will be warmer, easier to heat and more comfortable homes, it will enhance air quality in the home and for those currently using oil or gas they will see savings on energy bills (Action 41 and 42).

7.3.3 Active Travel – Funding for walking and cycling infrastructure

The NTA work in collaboration with Local Authorities across the country on the delivery of Active Travel projects. This includes the development of segregated cycle lanes and widened footpaths, new walking and cycling bridges, and new pedestrian crossings. Projects are funded by the Department of Transport through the NTA Active Travel Programme and are managed and delivered by the Local Authorities. The Active Travel Investment Programme for 2024 will fund approximately 800 new and existing Active Travel projects, many of which are in Tipperary (Action 36 and 39).



Figure 7.2: Learning about the Community Climate Action Fund

7.3.4 Community Climate Action Fund

This is a fund of €24 million for local authorities across the country, to support and build low carbon communities. This funding is part of the Community Climate Action Programme, which supports projects and initiatives that facilitate community climate action through education, capacity building and learning by doing. In 2024, Tipperary County Council was allocated €700,000 through this fund, and applications for community projects eligible for funding were accepted under the following five themes:

- » Home/energy
- » Travel
- » Food and waste
- » Shopping and recycling
- » Local climate and environmental action.

The Council will annually manage the implementation of this fund on behalf of DECC (Action 67).

7.3.5 EU Just Transition Fund

A large part of Tipperary (The Thurles Municipal District and Carrick on Suir Municipal District) is located in the EU Just Transition Fund¹ area, this is a key pillar of the Government's plan for the Midlands region, and its

aim is to support the transition to a climate neutral economy while securing the future and livelihoods of workers and their communities.

The Programme sets out the investment priorities and planned allocation of up to €169 million of investments and will focus on three priorities, including.

- » generating employment by investing in the diversification of the local economy
- » supporting the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands and the regeneration and repurposing of industrial heritage assets
- » providing former peat communities with smart and sustainable mobility options to enable them to benefit directly from the green transition

The Programme is managed by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly². The Council will continue to seek funding under the EU JTF in Tipperary (Action 99).

1 gov.ie - EU Just Transition Fund (www.gov.ie)

2 EUJTF@emra.ie

7.4 Tracking Progress through Key Performance Indicators

There are existing mechanisms for local authority monitoring of climate action, as set out below:

7.3.1 Internal Reporting

The delivery of climate actions is a key requirement of the Guidelines and therefore, each action has been assigned to a Lead Department responsible for their delivery. The Climate Action Office and the Climate Action Team will align the timing of internal implementation reporting intervals with that of sectoral progress reporting requirements in line with further guidance from CARO on monitoring and reporting.

7.3.2 SEAI Monitoring and Reporting System

The Council's own performance for delivery of energy efficiency and emission reductions relating to Council's infrastructure and assets, is tracked through the established Monitoring and Reporting system managed by the SEAI.

7.3.3 Local Government Climate Action KPI monitoring

The Council reports annually on its performance on climate action by way of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to inform the performance of the local government sector on climate actions. This commitment is set out in the County and City Management Association published strategy on behalf of local government entitled *Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 (DECA, 2021)*.

The CAROs along with the Local Government Management Agency collect data on an annual basis relating to a range of themes including:

- » Climate Action Resources;
- » Climate Action Training for local authority staff and elected members;
- » Actions delivered;
- » Enterprise support in area of climate action;
- » Energy efficiency;
- » Emission reductions;
- » Active travel measures; and
- » Severe weather response.

KPIs will continue to be added as necessary by the sector and the Council will contribute relevant information as required, to assist in highlighting the progress of the local government sector on climate action.

7.3.4 National Climate Action Plan and National Adaptation Plan

Reporting at national level will be done through the existing reporting sectoral structures for the National Climate Action Plan and the National Climate Adaptation Plan e.g. providing updates to the Department of Transport on progress in relation to active travel measures. Separate reporting is required by DECC in relation to progress on LACAP implementation. Since the adoption of the Local Authority Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019, annual monitoring has been carried out in line with this, however, new monitoring arrangements will incorporate both climate Adaptation and Mitigation monitoring.

7.4 Reporting Requirements and Arrangements

7.4.1 LACAP Actions

The implementation of the LACAP (both adaptation and mitigation monitoring) will be monitored via an in-house tracking system (further guidance expected from CARO on monitoring and reporting of LACAP action delivery) with key input from the Climate Action Team in terms of action delivery. The Council will also facilitate reporting to elected members, and the Environment and Climate Action SPC on an annual basis. In accordance with Part 3(w) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter, the Council report to DECC on progress on climate action at local level as part of the delivery of

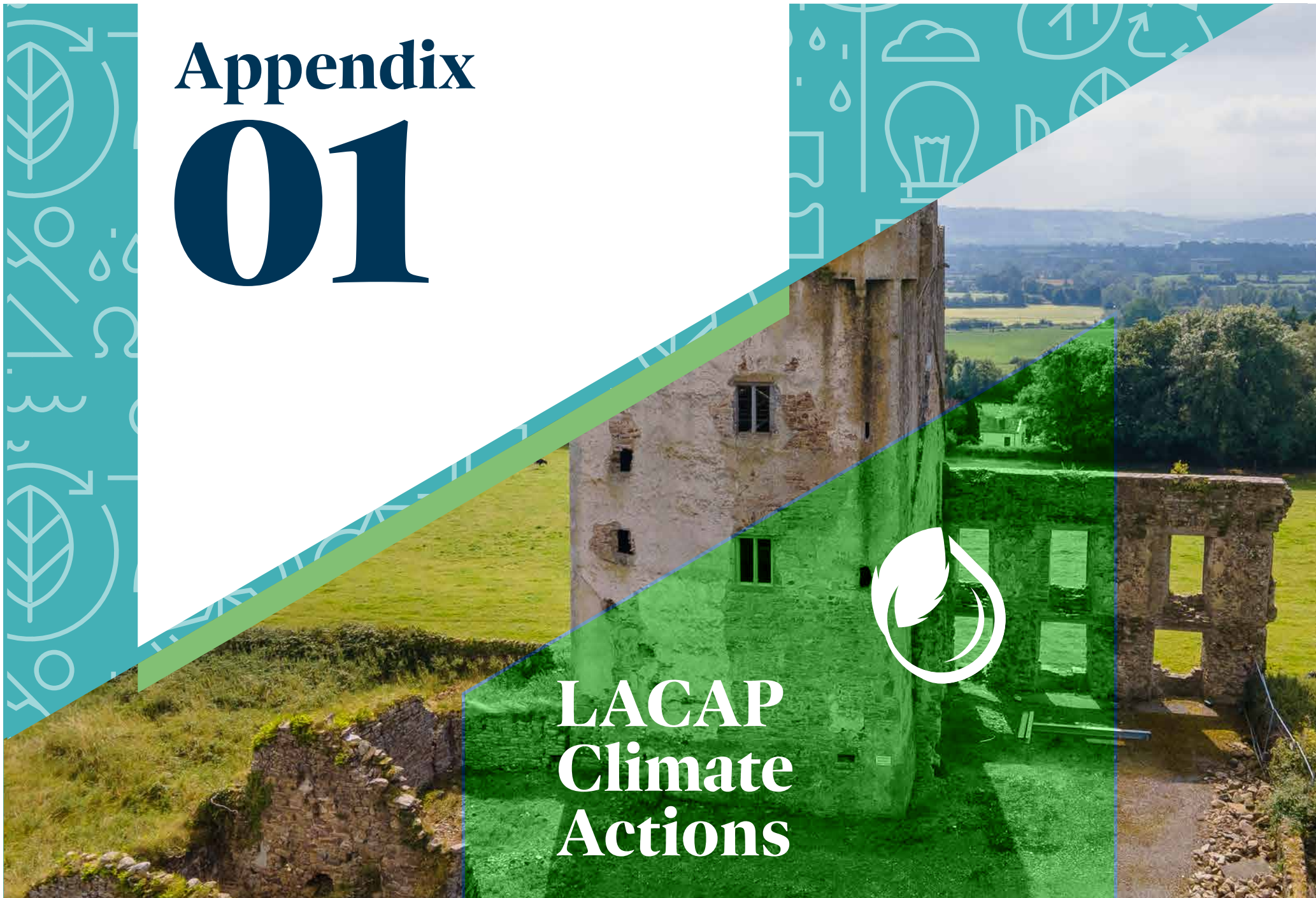
the national climate objective. Progress on all actions as set out in this LACAP will be reported via a reporting tool developed by CARO.

7.4.2 Covenant of Mayors

As signatory to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy since 2017, the Council committed to the completion and monitoring of a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan. This LACAP replaces the SECAP and the monitoring carried out in respect to the LACAP will support the Covenant of Mayors call for monitoring returns.

Appendix 01

LACAP
Climate
Actions



Theme: Governance and Leadership

Strategic Goal No. 1

To show leadership and ambition in 'Setting the Scene for Going Green' by achieving our own 50% energy efficiency target by 2030, by mainstreaming climate action (mitigation and adaptation) and governance change and awareness across our services, by seeking to influence local and national policy using this leadership position, and by developing, piloting and supporting innovation for transformative decarbonisation and climate action projects.

Actions

No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Lead Department	Partners	Timeframe	Dependencies
1	Actively co-ordinate and implement this Strategic Goal by maintaining a governance structure for climate action comprising of a dedicated Climate Action Director of Services, a Steering Group at Senior Management level and a Climate Action Team comprising senior staff across all services.	Both	Number of meetings per annum of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Climate Action Steering group » Climate Action Team » Decarbonisation Activation group 	Environment and Climate Action	CARO DECC	Annual	Funding for staffing and resources
2	Actively co-ordinate and implement this strategic organisational goal and actions that support and maximize environmental co-benefits, by the maintenance of dedicated climate action and energy management staff.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Maintain the Climate Action Office in accordance with CARO guidance. » Appointment of an Energy Officer 	Human Resources	Environment and Climate Action	Full team in place by end 2024 and thereafter annual reporting	Funding and support by the LGMA and central government for climate action positions and resources

3	<p>Prepare and apply a project design stage checklist to enable and demonstrate 'Climate Proofing' of local authority-led capital projects, for example; projects funded under the 'Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme', 'Active Travel Scheme', 'Urban Regeneration and Development Fund' etc. The intention will be to help guide the incorporation of climate actions such as biodiversity enhancement, carbon capture, walking and cycling, public transport, nature-based solutions, urban greening, rainwater harvesting, renewable energy technology, infrastructure for zero emission vehicles etc. at project design stage etc.</p> <p>Significant cross-boundary projects that are already subject to Climate Change Appraisal are not subject to this process.</p> <p>Appropriate regard will be had to environmental protection and opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.</p>	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop 'Climate Proofing Checklist' » Number of projects/developments subject to climate proofing at project development stage. » Apply 'Climate Proofing Checklist' to assessment of local authority projects subject to Part 8 and Section 177AE (application to An Bord Pleanála) 	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First	Environment and Climate Action All Sections	Checklist to be in place by end of Q3 2024 Annual reporting thereafter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Application and compliance by all sections » Project Ireland 2040 » Project selection » Funding phase/Cost Benefit Analysis » Planning & design » Procurement » Integration with/consideration of existing project compliance requirements
4	<p>In conjunction with the Climate Action Team, apply a dedicated monitoring system to facilitate the centralised tracking, measurement and monitoring of identified actions/metrics in this LACAP.</p>	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Digitised and current data available in real time » Quality data input by appropriate personnel in each section » Production of Reporting dashboards » Reporting through the Climate Action Team 	Environment and Climate Action	Information Technology	System in place by Q3 2024	<p>Collaboration with CARO, noting that they will produce a monitoring and tracking system for LACAP actions.</p>
5	<p>Continue to encourage, deepen and maximise the transfer of public services to online systems for example, Motor Tax applications, events booking etc. cutting down on customers travelling to and from the office. (note also Action 68 Just Transition)</p>	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sustainable service delivery report to be produced annually to reflect this action 	Corporate Support Services Information Technology	LGMA Each Council Service Area	Q1 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » IT Analyst Developer Resource required to support action » LGMA to support move to on-line services

6	Examine the amount and extent of data being stored in order to drive down capacity requirements for on-site & off-site storage (in both hard-copy & electronic formats). Seek to implement measures for more efficient data storage.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Analysis carried out » % Reduction in Printing costs » % reduction in need for customer attendance at council offices » % Reduction in energy costs for data storage. 	Information Technology	<p>LGMA</p> <p>'Digital and ICT Strategy Working Group'</p> <p>All Service Areas.</p>	Analysis to be carried out by Q4 2024	Resources, funding and direction taken by other Local authorities /LGMA/ Government Departments
7	<p>Climate Action to be addressed in finance management, as follows:</p> <p>(a) Consider if there is a need for a separate Revenue Budget (or some other comparable methodology) to capture Climate Action investment/expenditure.</p> <p>(b) Review significant income sources to ascertain if it is possible to implement incentive schemes designed to positively incentivise low carbon activity.</p>	Both	Review of Finance Management Structure	Finance	LGMA	<p>Review of Finance Management Structure to be complete by Q2 2024</p> <p>Annual reporting there after</p>	LGMA Technical and Funding support
8	Participate in the 'Smarter Travel Programme' (NTA) to encourage sustainable and active travel by staff to and from their work locations and during the course of their work.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Online staff travel survey and report » Sustainable Travel Action Plan » Achieve Smarter Travel Mark certification » Number of Active travel challenges for staff » Partner seminar and networking 	Roads and Transportation	<p>Environment and Climate Action</p> <p>NTA</p> <p>Corporate Services</p>	Q1 2024	<p>Participation in the NTA Smarter Travel programme</p> <p>NTA support to be provided</p>
9	Advocate for, and (where appropriate) apply a review and update of national 'Staff Travel and Subsistence Rates' to incentivise the use of lower carbon vehicles/ car-pooling/transport modes to reduce transport costs/ emissions for staff and provide a more conducive working environment by reducing travel for work need.	Mitigation	» Apply national Travel and Subsistence update when available	Finance	<p>LGMA</p> <p>DHLGH</p>	As available	LGMA to update Staff Travel and Subsistence System with revised rates determined by the DHLGH

10	Continue to show leadership and support for hybrid working for staff as an enabler of a reduced need to travel to work, with associated GHG emissions savings, and provide infrastructure to facilitate remote working/video conferencing.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Km/GHG emissions saved per year as a result of hybrid working patterns. » % of staff availing of hybrid working. » At least 25% of all meetings to be held remotely 	Human Resources	Information Technology LGMA Corporate Support Services	Ongoing	IS support and resourcing for support services for hybrid working. Funding and Resources Dependent on demonstration of efficient service delivery
11	Enhanced Property Management – Carry out a ‘Strategic Assessment’ of all Council owned buildings and land assets to determine their capacity for more efficient use and occupation, and to help plan for their most efficient use i.e. renovation, retrofitting, disposal etc to help achieve emissions reductions and energy efficiency targets (see related Actions 30 and 32).	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Property Inventory/ Building Stock Plan of all Council assets » No. of Building Stock plans in place » Building occupancy rate to floor area » GIS mapping and digital database of all assets » Production of results of annual survey and circulation across services » % Vacancy reduction. 	Corporate Support Services	TEA Information Technology All Council sections responsible for built assets	Q4 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Resources and funding » Facilities Manager resourcing » Update of current facilities management protocols
12	Enhanced Facilities Management – Carry out a review of the facilities management functions across the organisation, and set out an action plan to manage facilities to help achieve emissions reductions targets and meet Green Public Procurement requirements.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Review carried out » Value of Goods, Services and Works used in Council facilities that have incorporated Green Public Procurement criteria in contract. 	Corporate Support Services	All services with control of facilities	Q4 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Facilities Manager resourcing » Update of current facilities management protocols » Facilities management software/systems
13	Seek to acquire the Council’s electricity supply from “green/renewable” sources (with provision for required alternative back-up in place)	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » % of electricity supply from “green/ renewable” source. 	Corporate Support Services	Districts and relevant Service Areas	100% electricity generated from renewable sources by Q4 2025	Sourcing of suitable supplier. Ongoing cost differential reviews.

14	Support the sustained commitment of the elected members of the Council to the LACAP through continued capacity building, knowledge sharing, etc.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No. of workshops held with elected members » No. of training events » Attendance by Elected Members 	Corporate Support Services Human Resources	TEA CARO Environment and Climate Action	Annual review Q4 2024–2029	Training courses offered by CARO
15	Develop a 'Setting the Scene for Going Green' Staff Awareness programme across all local authority services and involving all local authority staff focused on 'Reducing your Use' including for sustainable waste management, energy saving and reduced need for travel, and to support behavioural change by all staff, using shared learning for example, the Regional Waste Management Office and adjoining local authorities (See Actions 8, 31 and 32).	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Awareness programme » Use of waste reduction facilities as designed » Reduced need for use of private car (commuting and/or travel for work) » Reduction in printing » Increase in Waste recycling » Reduction in energy costs » E-Learning system 	Environment and Climate Action	All Service Areas CARO SEAI Information Technology Partnership officer	Q1 2025 and annual review	Staff participation Staff training programmes/e-learning Regional Waste Management Office
16	Training and Information (Climate Action Protocol for Council staff) will be provided to new employees on the Council's policies on Climate Action as part of their induction programme	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop information Pack for new employees » Number of new staff induced and trained in the protocol 	Environment and Climate Action	Human Resources	Information programme to be developed by Q2 2024	Protocol in place and monitored.
17	Show leadership by the publication and showcasing of our climate action measures and achievements and emissions reductions measures through our public awareness networks, community networks and partnerships.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Number of Press-releases. » Number of Radio Interviews » On-Line Case Studies » Social media network » Peer Learning events 	Environment and Climate Action	Information Technology All Service areas to contribute	Commence in Q1 2024 and review annually	IT support and resourcing with emphasis on social media

18	To fully utilise the existing networks, forums, relationships, influence and outreach of the Council, through its various services and functions to help relate the Climate Action message to stakeholders and communities and deliver on the collaborative outward facing actions as set out in this LACAP. In this respect, the Council will take a leading role in an outward facing committee of stakeholders (SustainableTipp) focused on the delivery of climate actions.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No. of local authority events/ » publications that incorporated the Climate Action message » No. of stakeholder forums consulted, i.e. the County Economic Forum. » Meetings of SustainableTipp 	All Directorates (through the Climate Action Team)	Environment and Climate Action	Commence in Q1 2024 and review annually	Participation of all sections
19	Examine a system of utilising e-signatures instead of written signatures for relevant signing requirements	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » System to be implemented as part of processes according to section needs 	Information Technology	Corporate Support Services	Complete analysis by Q4 2024	IS Analyst Developer Resource. Participation of all sections
20	Collaborate with stakeholders in Tipperary through the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) to assist in an outreach to embedding climate action practices.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No. of meetings that include a climate action focus. » Specific measures identified by SPCs 	All Directorates (responsible for a SPC)	SPC members	Ongoing	Training for members and stakeholders in Climate Action Time and Resources Funding

Strategic Goal No. 2

Protect our assets and critical infrastructure from extreme weather events, and to ensure a co-ordinated and resourced emergency response from all climate related emergencies and events, including flooding.

Actions

No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Lead Service Area ¹	Partners	Timeframe	Dependencies
21	To carry out a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events associated with climate change, and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.	Adaptation	Completion of feasibility assessment.	Environment and Climate Action	An Foruim Uisce DHLGH EPA LAWPRO Uisce Eireann GSI OPW	Completion in Q2 2025	DHLGH Support
22	Undertake a Climate Risk Assessment of local authority owned heritage assets (natural and built) in accordance with Guidance to be published in 2023 by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	Adaptation	Climate risk assessment complete	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	All sections responsible for building assets	Commence within 12 months of the issue of guidance	Guidance to issue from DHLGH

¹ It is noted that the directorships may change over the lifetime of the LACAP, however the dedicated action will remain applicable to its service area.

23	<p>Carry out an 'Ecological/Habitat audit and Tree Cover survey' of local authority owned land, in accordance with an agreed methodology, to identify areas suitable for restoration and enhanced carbon storage, through biodiversity and tree planting measures and having regard to the need to conserve and enhance protected species, biodiversity and European sites on or connected to local authority lands.</p> <p>The study will, in particular, identify sites for native and mixed woodland planting and set targets for planting and maintaining native trees in urban and rural areas, to enhance carbon storage, biodiversity and landscape, air quality, and urban heat island mitigation.</p>	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Audit complete 	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	<p>Municipal Districts</p> <p>Environment and Climate Action</p> <p>All-Ireland Pollinator Plan</p>	<p>Audit to be complete by Q4 2024.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Funding of proposed audit
24	<p>Prepare a 'Habitat, Ecology and Tree Cover Policy' on lands managed by the local authority as informed by Action 23.</p>	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Policy adopted » Restoration and carbon storage projects – at least 1 in each MD per year. » Number of trees planted at MD level annually » Survey of carbon capture as a result of tree planting annually » Digital system of recording and monitoring in place 	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	<p>Municipal Districts</p> <p>Environment and Climate Action</p>	<p>Policy to be complete by Q2 2025.</p> <p>Projects to commence within 6 months of completion of audit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Funding for proposed survey and policy » Funding for tree planting » Appointment of biodiversity officer Funding for restoration and enhanced carbon storage projects » Appointment of biodiversity officer

25	Implement an enhanced system of annual monitoring of severe weather events, including the associated costs of managing/responding to those events that generated a need for emergency response. Maintain a record of the costs associated with the management of and response to severe weather events.	Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » System in place » Annual event reporting » Number of specific plans/training for emergency response in line with the Risk Assessment » No. of training events in the Tipperary Fire Service Hydra Command Development Suite, Clonmel. 	Fire and Emergency Services/ Emergency Planning	EPA OPW	Q4 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Technical support from appropriate organisations » Training of staff » Support from staff
26	Review the Council's 'Emergency Response Protocol' for severe weather events and 'Risk Register' annually to consider the impacts of climate change, and the costs associated with emergency response and remediation works/services to such events, climate risks on the delivery of emergency response services and energy response procedures to severe weather events.	Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Annual review » No. of training events in the Tipperary Fire Service Hydra Command Development Suite, Clonmel. 	Roads and Transportation (Emergency Response Team)	Municipal Districts	Ongoing with Annual Monitoring	Accurate and timely recording systems across services
27	As part of the Royal Sites Steering group on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List for Ireland, ensure that climate adaptation and mitigation measures, which are designed in manner that will not result in unintended adverse effects on heritage assets, are considered as part of the nomination process, and support where possible climate related studies/ assessments at the sites.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Inclusion of climate adaptation and mitigation measures in nomination process » Number of studies/assessments supported in nomination process 	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity.	Royal Sites Steering group partners National Monuments Service OPW	In line with UNESCO nomination time-frame	Subject to UNESCO timelines

28	Resolve local flooding issues utilising OPW and Department of Transport funding (Drainage programme, Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works, OPW Minor Works Scheme and Nature Based Solutions).	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Maximise annual spend » Number of projects and projects each year » Projects that integrate Nature-based solutions in flood risk management 	Roads and Transportation	OPW DoT Inland Fisheries Municipal Districts LAWPRO	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Funding » Landowner consents
29	Commence a 'Bridge Structures Inspection Programme' to determine and respond to the effects of climate change and the increased risk of bridge structures being compromised (increased flows, more debris in flood waters, increased flood levels etc.).	Adaptation	Number of inspections carried out per annum	Roads and Transportation	DoT TII Inland Fisheries An Bord Pleanála OPW Municipal Districts	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Funding for inspection programme » Trained staff

Strategic Goal No. 3

To achieve our own 51% greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reductions target by 2030 through an increase in the use of renewable energy sources and increased energy efficiency throughout our housing, offices, infrastructure and transport fleet in line with national 2030 and 2050 targets.

Actions

No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Lead Department	Partners	Timeframe	Dependencies
30	<p>Prepare and implement a pipeline of projects and initiatives for Local Authority Buildings/Facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in non-electrical building emissions (thermal) by 2030. Programme to include (at the minimum) for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Building Stock Plans » Prepare Buildings for 2050 in so far as practical (Net Zero Emissions) » Energy Efficiency Projects » 'Reduce Your Use' initiatives (see Action 15) » Renewable Energy Technologies » Lifecycle analysis/Green Public Procurement » Consideration of specialist building requirements i.e. HVAC in Museum, fire training services etc. » Consider use of emerging technologies and materials <p>Note: See related Action 58 Nature-based solutions and integrated rainwater management protocol.</p>	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Annual Decarbonisation Implementation Plan » Building Stock Plans » Annual review of emissions reductions as part of 'Monitoring and Reporting' » Participation on regional funding programmes » Amount of funding received » % Reduction on baseline in GHGs 	<p>Corporate Support Services</p> <p>Environment and Climate Action</p>	<p>CARO</p> <p>TEA</p> <p>SEAI</p> <p>All sections with responsibility for buildings facilities</p> <p>Finance</p>	<p>DIP to be in place by Q1 2024.</p> <p>Annual reporting</p>	<p>Resources and funding</p> <p>Availability of resources and technical expertise</p>

<p>31</p>	<p>Prepare and implement a pipeline of projects and initiatives for Council Fleet and Transport Management operations to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in non-electrical transport greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.</p> <p>Programme of measures to include (at the minimum) for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Prepare a 'Fleet Decarbonisation Roadmap' » Review of driver behaviour » Education and training programme for Fleet Vehicle Drivers » Review of fuel procurement procedures » Move to alternative vehicles, including EV, and alternative fuel types including HVO. » Optimisation of road works programme » Continue the exploration of acquiring more carbon efficient large vehicles » Consider use of emerging technologies and materials » Ensure that alternative fuel sources are sustainably sourced and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles. 	<p>Mitigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Annual review of emissions reductions as part of Monitoring and Report system » Preparation of a 'Fleet Decarbonisation Roadmap' » Participation on regional funding programmes » Amount of funding received » % Reduction on baseline in GHGs » % of fleet moved to non-fossil fuel » % of staff trained in sustainable driving techniques » 1 carbon efficient large vehicle trial every 2 years 	<p>Roads and Transportation</p>	<p>Environment and Climate Action CARO TEA Department of Transport Human Resources Finance</p>	<p>Fleet Decarbonising Plan in place by Q1 2024. Annual Reporting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Vehicle/fuel technology » Annual budgets » Consideration of impact on roadworks programme » Funding » EV technology to improve range
------------------	---	-------------------	---	---------------------------------	--	---	--

<p>32</p>	<p>Prepare and implement a range of measures to achieve the Councils Overall Emissions Reductions of 51% by 2030 (2016–2018 baseline), achieve 50% Energy Efficiency metric (2006–2008 baseline) and enable Adaptation to climate change risk.</p> <p>This will require implementation of the actions outlined in items 30 and 31, and also a focus on <u>other</u> emissions reductions including electrical such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Energy Efficient Public Lighting » Energy Efficient Building Lighting <p>and climate adaptation measures for facilities and fleet.</p> <p>Note: Ensure that potential actions maintain/control or reduce existing lumen levels and spectral range to avoid effects on biodiversity.</p>	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Prepare Schedule of Measures for overall emissions reductions » Deliver the 'Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in Tipperary'. » Staff behaviour change in line with Action 1.15 » 13,000 public lights to be upgraded to LED by end 2025. » Ongoing upgrade programme thereafter with new target for end 2029. » Adaptation Measures » Climate Risk Assessment of assets/services as required 	All Directorates (with emissions reductions and climate adaptation responsibility)	Environment and Climate Action Office TEA RMO Kilkenny Co Council Contract ESB Networks	Annual	Contractual resources ESB Networks
<p>33</p>	<p>Participate/lead in national/regional funding programmes for local authorities, for example, the SEAI Energy Retrofit 'Pathfinder' funding programme etc, to support funding for emissions reductions and climate action measures, ensuring that all retrofitting works funded will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity.</p>	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Funding received annually » Match funding provided by the Council 	Environment and Climate Action	TEA All Sections with emissions reductions responsibility CARO SEAI	Formal participation by Q4 2023 ongoing participation thereafter	Funding programmes available
<p>34</p>	<p>Develop a 'Strategy for Zero Emissions Vehicles' for Tipperary and commence implementation of the actions/ recommendations/targets as identified having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.</p>	Mitigation	Complete Strategy in 2025	Roads and Transportation	ZEVI Environment and Climate Action Relevant neighbouring counties	Q4 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Guidance from ZEVI » Funding from ZEVI » Just Transition Fund » Match funding » Staff resources » Regional approach

35	Roll-out public Electric Vehicle charge points in line with targets set out in Action 34 having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.	Both	Increase in number of charge points year on year from baseline in 2022, including at Civic Offices	Roads and Transportation	ESB Networks ZEVI Commercial providers Municipal Districts	Q1 2024 – Q1 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Guidance from ZEVI » Funding from ZEVI/Just Transition Fund » ESB Networks » Staff resources
36	Continue to roll-out the Council's 'Active Travel Programme' maximising available funding from the NTA.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Achieve 100% spend of annual allocation from NTA » Km of active travel infrastructure installed 	Roads and Transportation	NTA Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Continued NTA funding » Statutory approvals including Part 8 » Staff resources
37	Carry out an assessment for the delivery of 'car-restricted zones' with reallocation of space, in certain suitable areas i.e. town centres, schools etc where the focus should be on active travel, business and amenity, as appropriate, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identification of suitable areas in the county » Number of car restricted zones delivered per year. 	Roads and Transportation	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First) NTA	Methodology by Q4 2024 Feasibility assessment carried out within 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » NTA support and advice » Funding for feasibility assessment
38	Deliver new Greenway Infrastructure in line with the provisions of the National Cycle Network having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage.	Both	Report on Greenway projects at each stage of the TII Approval Process (Gateways 1-5)	Roads and Transportation	TII TII RDO Planning and Development (including Town Centre First) An Bord Pleanála	Q1 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Funding from TII » Statutory approvals » Landowner consent » Staff resources
39	Deliver the Clonmel Pathfinder Programme (1 of 35 exemplar transport projects) by 2025, subject to funding and having due regard to local environmental sensitivities such as water quality, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value, and the need to protect and conserve buildings and structures of architectural or cultural heritage value.	Mitigation	Project delivered by 2025	Roads and Transportation (Clonmel Borough District)	Roads and Transportation, Active Travel & NTA	Q4 2025	Funding Statutory approvals

40	Achieve minimum requirement as required by the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) and if possible, to increase the level of Oversight, Inspections and Enforcement of Part L of the Building Regulations	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increase in number of inspections » Increase in oversight of compliance with Building regulations Part L » Training supports for planning agents 	Fire and Emergency Services/ Emergency Planning	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	Q4 2024 and annual monitoring thereafter	Increase in inspections will be dependent on Funding and Resources
41	Implement an annual housing retrofit programme for local authority housing stock in accordance with funding programmes such as the National Retrofit Plan (DECC) and other relevant programmes.	Mitigation	Numbers of Houses retrofitted per annum	Housing	DECC	Q1 2024 Multi Annual Programme and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Funding and resources » Availability of specialist staff and external consultants/ contractors
42	Identify a pipeline of proposed housing retrofit projects to be delivered annually.	Mitigation	Develop multi annual 5yr rolling programme	Housing	DECC	Q2 2024	Subject to receipt of funding
43	All new Homes and Extensions built by the Local Authority to be to NZEB standard in line with Part L of the Building regulations.	Mitigation	No. of NZEB homes delivered per year	Housing	DECC	Annual programme	Subject to receipt of funding
44	The Council will seek to show leadership by the design and construction of Net-Zero Homes as part of their building programmes, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as visual amenity and quality, local human receptors, Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology, and amenity value.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 10 Net-Zero Homes delivered per year. » Social media campaign around the delivery of Net-Zero Homes 	Housing	DECC	Design Programme to commence in Q1 2024	Subject to receipt of funding from the Department Housing, Local Government and Heritage
45	Implement and promote across Council networks, national building refurbishment and vacancy programmes for private sector housing, for example Croí Cónaithe scheme.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Number of derelict structures occupied where the LA has played a supporting or direct role. » Number of grants allocated per annum » Reduction in vacancy 	Housing	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First) Municipal Districts DECC	Ongoing and subject to annual monitoring	Subject to receipt of funding
	Such projects will ensure that they will not actively encourage a modal shift toward private car use, and will have 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 and European sites.						

46	Carry out a feasibility study to identify a suitable Local Authority-Led District Heating programme. If feasible, develop a local authority-led District Heating project in a Key Town (Clonmel, Nenagh or Thurles), having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of development.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identify and cost a suitable project within 24 months. » Funding and Planning Permission to be secured within 24 months with a view to delivery of project within 2.5 years (subject to feasibility) 	Corporate Support Services	TEA Municipal Districts	Feasibility commence in Q1 2024	Technical Support Funding and resources
----	---	------------	---	----------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------------	--

Strategic Goal No. 4

Through our spatial planning policy and objectives support the Core Strategy of the Tipperary County Development Plan (and any review thereof), having consideration to core objectives as they relate to sustainable development and a Just Transition, including aspects such as Town Centre First, Active Travel, Sustainable Energy and Compact Development etc

Actions

No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Lead Department	Partners	Timeframe	Dependencies
	Having consideration to the outcome of a feasibility assessment (Action 21), the Council shall consider how new development in areas determined to have both a water supply and a water quality constraint (i.e. from climate related drought, extreme rain fall events) may impact on water quality.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identification of areas at risk » Preparation of a methodology/ protocol » Preparation of guidance for developments proposed in areas where water supply/quality is a constraint. » Training of planners and planning agents » Constraint assessment as part of SEA/EIA processes as appropriate. 	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	Environment and Climate Action Uisce Eireann EPA LAWPRO	Reliant on delivery of Action 2.1	Support from Uisce Eireann and the EPA
48	In line with the Town-Centre First programme, reduce vacancy and dereliction by collaborating with owners in finding ways that these structures can be brought back to use, 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.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Annual Survey to be carried out » % vacancy reduction » Number of owners collaborated with and with a successful outcome » Land Activation protocol in place. 	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	DHLGH DRCD SEAI Municipal Districts Housing	Ongoing	Funding and resources

	In order to underpin the delivery of an Active Travel programme, support preparation of 'Local Transport Plans' for Key Towns and Sustainable Travel Plans' for 'District Towns', whilst ensuring these plans are:	Both	Local Transport Plans and Sustainable Travel Plans to be delivered as part of Local Area Plans	Active Travel	NTA	In line with plan-making schedule	Collaboration and Support Staff resources Timelines Public engagement Funding for implementation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » - Designed to mitigate potential environmental impacts associated with supported active travel infrastructure. » - Support the carrying out of environmental/biodiversity enhancement during the active travel development process. 						
50	Support the delivery of an 'Integrated Transport Hub' in the Key Towns of Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles to incorporate and support multi-modal services and active travel linkages with town centre areas/regional services, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Annual Funding secured » Develop a Master Plan for each Transport Hub » Numbers of passengers using the transport hubs 	Active Travel	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First) NTA National Transport Operators	Master Plans to be in place by Q4 2025	Funding and Resources Investment by national transport operators.
	Advocate for both proactive national planning policy and fit for purpose national grid infrastructure in Tipperary that will support the transition to renewable energy and to ensure that local authority planning policy is aligned with national policy change and updates as they relate to national and regional renewable energy/electricity targets, guidance and support schemes.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Review to be complete within 2 months of policy update/change. » Where required, any variation/update required to planning policy procedures to be commenced within 6 months year of review. 	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	Southern Regional Assembly, DECC, Eirgrid	Q4 2024	Southern Regional Assembly publication of regional strategy. Publication of national guidelines for example Wind Energy, Bio-mass etc.
52	Dedicate and train a team of cross-sectoral personnel to support planning assessment of large-scale renewable energy projects/bio-energy projects and new and emerging technologies.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identify and train key team members/skill sets » Training and Skills programme 	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	To be supported by CARO and relevant internal sections	Q4 2024	Resources and staffing, cross-sectoral participation. Sub-regional collaboration with adjoining local authorities

	Actively support and train planning agents to support the climate action transition.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop Protocol for corresponding with planning agents. » Host a dedicated training/information session annual with guest speakers. 	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	Environment and Climate Action	Ongoing	Resources and staffing
54	Carry out a review of the Council 'Development Contribution Scheme' to determine if it is feasible to positively incentivise 'Low-Carbon Development' and 'Community-Led development'	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Review the development contribution scheme in line with statutory timeframes. 	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	Environment and Climate Action CARO	In line with statutory timelines	Funding and ability of the Development Contribution Scheme to deliver on its purpose.
	Prepare a Master Plan for the National Bioeconomy Campus located at Lisheen, Co. Tipperary in line with the objective of the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (and as reviewed).	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Completion of Master Plan » Implement objectives of Master Plan 	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	Economic, Community and Rural Development (including Just Transition)	Q2 2024	Collaborate approach with key stakeholders

Theme: Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

Strategic Goal No. 5

Promote and protect our environment, and its biodiversity and water catchments as key enablers of climate adaptation and mitigation across the county through the delivery of sustainable services, including those with a focus on nature-based solutions, in collaboration with sectors and communities.

Actions

No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Lead Department	Partners	Timeframe	Dependencies
56	The Council will seek to prioritise the delivery of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme identified flood schemes in Tipperary, 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.	Mitigation	Number of projects delivered in line with funding and statutory approvals	Roads and Transportation	OPW Inland Fisheries Planning Section An Bord Pleanála	Q1 2029	» Funding » Statutory approvals » Landowner consent » Staff resources
57	The Council will carry out a review of the element of the 'Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment' for infrastructure for which it has responsibility, such as water supply reservoirs, waste water treatment plants, sewerage or urban storm water drainage systems and will report the findings of this review to the OPW.	Mitigation	Review to be carried out in line with statutory deadline	Roads and Transportation	OPW	Q4 2024	Staff resources

58	<p>Develop and implement a Nature-Based Solutions and integrated rainwater management protocol for both Council and private sector projects, and to prioritise NBS in line with national guidance parameters. The protocol will address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Part 8 and Section 177AE planning applications for active travel, roads, public realm projects, public housing, footpath upgrades, public and council carparks, greenway/blueway planning etc with targets for all. » 'Taking in Charge' – review taking-in-charge processes. » Plan and resource maintenance. » Education and awareness for public and elected members. » Incorporation of water sensitive urban design concepts, including rainwater collection, at early stage » Integration of Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance for watercourses. 	Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop a protocol for the application of NBS to Council projects » Training/supports for staff and planning agents on NBS alternatives » All projects to have a nature-based solution element, where possible. » At least one example (per year) of best practice in NBS to manage surface water runoff in urban spaces » % reduction in treated water used 	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	Funding authorities Municipal Districts LAWPRO CARO	Protocol by Q4 2024 (to support Action 1.3) Delivery of protocol ongoing thereafter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Staff resources and staff training » Training of planning agents » Participation by external stakeholders
59	Carry out a review of Section 4 Discharge to Water Licences to determine if they are capable of meeting projected climate change related risks such as hydrological changes and water temperature increases.	Both	» Number of Licences reviewed.	Environment and Climate Action	EPA	Q4 2024	Funding and resources
60	Introduce and implement a policy in relation to how Council owned spaces are managed to improve biodiversity levels in keeping with the 'All Ireland Pollinator Plan', and as part of this to develop and implement a 'Pesticide Reduction Protocol' for lands and areas managed by the Council, ensuring these substances are only used to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites. (see associated Action 24).	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Protocol completed and adopted » MDs to identify how they have reduced the use of chemical herbicides/pesticides (excepting their use for invasive species). 	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	Municipal Districts National Pollinator Plan	Q4 2025	<p>Appointment of a biodiversity officer</p> <p>Funding for the development of a protocol and guidance.</p>

61	Prepare a guidance document and training on the importance of, quality rating and sustainable management of the hedgerows of Tipperary, for Council staff and external stakeholders including farmers/landowners.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Policy completed and adopted » Numbers of staff trained » Training event (annual) for stakeholders (could be delivered in conjunction with other training events) 	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	Municipal Districts Roads and Transportation Planning and Development (including Town Centre First),	Q4 2025	<p>Appointment of a biodiversity officer</p> <p>Funding for the development of a protocol and guidance.</p> <p>Consistency with the Roads Safety Strategy</p>
62	Support existing citizen science initiatives including National Biodiversity Data Centre biodiversity recording through training of public/stakeholders and publicising schemes and resources.	Both	Number of workshops held/records submitted for county	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	Municipal Districts LAWPRO South Tipperary Development Company North Tipperary Development Company	Commence in Q2 2024 and ongoing thereafter	<p>Appointment of a biodiversity officer</p> <p>Funding</p>
63	Building on work carried out for the 'Tipperary County Wetland Survey', develop a 'Wetland Restoration Plan', this shall identify priority areas for habitat restoration, carbon capture and biodiversity benefits, along with phasing for restoration and 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.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Complete the Wetland Survey. » Complete the Wetland Restoration Plan. » Priority areas for restoration identified. » Ha of wetland restored 	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	Municipal Districts LAWPRO External stakeholders	Plan to be delivered by Q4 2025 and ongoing thereafter	<p>Appointment of a biodiversity officer</p> <p>Funding</p>

Theme: Communities: Resilience & Just Transition

Strategic Goal No. 6

Build capacity and readiness with communities and other strategic partners for transformative climate action and a 'Just Transition', using capacity building programmes, policy/financial instruments and local development and wellbeing programmes, and to promote climate action and green skills in training and education in partnership with Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs).

Actions

No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Lead Department	Partners	Timeframe	Dependencies
64	Include 'Sustainability and Climate Action' scoring on relevant grant funded activity assessments to support community groups/ stakeholders in considering and incorporating Climate Mitigation and Adaptation in grant funded activities.	Both	» Application forms updated to comply with this objective	All Directorates (responsible for grant administration and scoring)	Environment and Climate Action CARO PPN Volunteer Centre NTDC and STDC	Grant application forms to be updated by Q2 2024	» Funding availability. » Relevance of grant scheme » Training for community groups and stakeholders on Climate action
65	Organise capacity building training on climate action and biodiversity for community groups and stakeholders etc, including sharing of experiences and use of exemplar projects and demonstration sites.	Both	» On-line information resources on Council networks » Training courses/ webinars delivered » Prepare guidance note for organisers to be circulated with grant application forms	Economic, Community and Rural Development	Municipal Districts LAWPRO Awareness Officers PPN The Arts Council	To commence in Q1 2024 and ongoing	» Funding support » ETB resources and programmes » Participation of community groups and stakeholders » Availability of resources including qualified personnel

66	Identify ways to support grant/programme administrators in their role as influencers of climate action, just transition and sustainability through administration of grants and programmes across council services.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Funding support provided » Training support provided » The development of an e-training programme for grant administrators 	Economic, Community and Rural Development	LEO SEAI DECC	DECC support Funding and support/commitment from the SEAI to roll out an e-training programme for grant administrators	
67	Through the 'Community Climate Action Fund' support community groups in decarbonising their building assets and programmes.	Both	» Number of projects allocated annually under the CCAF	Environment and Climate Action	PPN	Annual grant scheme	Funding from DECC
68	In the move towards on-line and paperless services, in the interest of a 'Just Transition' maintain the ability to support those who cannot use on-line facilities and monitor demand.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » % of online applications of total » Number of requests for non-digital services per year 	All Directorates (that offer on-line services)	Corporate Support Services All relevant sections and Municipal Districts	Ongoing	Funding and resources, noting that this will require the maintenance of counter and phone services
69	Increase awareness of emissions reduction initiatives and energy efficient grants to small and medium enterprises. This will take the format of marketing and promotion via media advertising, social media platforms, press releases and attendance at workshops and seminars.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Social Media Hits » No of enquires » No of Conversions » 1 targeted presentation on LEO supports in defined Municipal District area per quarter 	Local Enterprise Office	Economic, Community and Rural Development Community and business organisations specifically targeted	Ongoing	Staff resources Information Systems/Technology Support
70	Through the 'Energy Efficiency Grant', support investment in technologies and equipment for enterprises following a production of 'Green for Micro' Report by enterprises.	Mitigation	5 SME's to be supported per year	Local Enterprise Office	Business Organisations PPN	To commence in Q1 2024 and Ongoing	Funding Availability of Consultants
71	Maintain a business network to offer support too small to medium local business and that offers a platform for training and support for climate action.	Both	Implementation of a programme of activity including awareness and support of climate action reduction for each network as submitted on annual basis	Local Enterprise Office	Relevant Tertiary Business networks PPN	Ongoing	Ongoing financial support for Networks

72	Enable children and youth to be more climate aware through the delivery of the services and functions of the Council, for example, the 'Green Schools' programme.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » % of schools in the Green Schools Programme » Council supported Comhairle na nÓg events 	Economic, Community and Rural Development (including Just Transition)	All sections PPN	Ongoing	Collaboration with the Green Schools Programme
73	Encourage a community response to enable biodiversity in the community, in association with groups such as the 'Tidy Towns,' through innovative measures such as competitions, events and training.	Both	Annual percentage growth year on year in participation in support measures	Economic, Community and Rural Development (including Just Transition)	Municipal Districts Economic, Community and Rural Development (including Just Transition). All Ireland Pollinator Plan PPN	Ongoing	Funding and resources Biodiversity officer appointment
74	<p>To support and inform a climate proofing programme for natural water resources, and to better manage flooding at the catchment level, the Council will identify a sub-catchment where water quality objectives are not being met, and where there is an established flood risk. A study will be commissioned for this sub-catchment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identify the reasons why Water Framework Directive water quality objectives are not being met, » Set out baseline water quality standards to enable monitoring, » Identify solutions (incl nature based) to reducing flood risk at the catchment level, and, » Set out viable, positive and collaborative mechanisms at the community level for how they can be delivered. » The programme shall have due regard to the protection of biodiversity and European sites and avoidance of habitat fragmentation. 	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Delivery of the study » Roll of out a support programme to achieve the recommendations as set out in the study » Number of private individuals and community groups engaging in the programme 	Environment and Climate Action	LAWPRO EPA CARO	<p>Study to be delivered by Q1 2025</p> <p>Delivery of programme of measures to commence within 6 months of study publication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Dependent on receipt of funding for the study and for mechanisms proposed » Stakeholder support » Community participation » Cross sectoral Collaboration

75	Engage with the GAA 'Green Club Programme' in the promotion and support of projects by participating clubs, to meet the objectives of the programme.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Council Lead in place » Collection of case study examples of projects supported by the Council (Annual collection) 	Economic, Community and Rural Development (including Just Transition)	CARO GAA PPN	Ongoing to 2029	<p>Number of participating clubs in the Programme</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding signed between the GAA and CCMA, on working together on sustainability and climate action.</p>
76	Increase climate themed events for national events such as National Heritage Week, National Biodiversity Week, Crinniú na nÓg etc	Both	No of climate themed events per year	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	PPN	Report annually	Annual events held
77	Support creativity and the arts in delivering the climate action message, including, implementation of the 'Culture and Creativity Strategies' objective on creative engagement for climate action.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Number of projects delivered » Increase in green-ing measures in artists practice 	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	Museum Training partners e.g. Visual Artists Ireland, PPN etc	Report Annually	Funding for creative engagement for climate action
78	Organise workshops on reducing household carbon footprint through cultural heritage knowledge.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Number of workshops on Cultural Heritage for low carbon future designed and delivered. » Number of people in attendance 	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	Museum, craft network, community representatives PPN	Report annually	Participation in workshops
79	Continue to organise training/seminars to promote adaptive reuse of historic and protected 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 and European sites.	Mitigation	» Number of events held and number of people in attendance	Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity	<p>Planning and Development (including Town Centre First),</p> <p>Libraries and Cultural Services/Biodiversity</p> <p>Fire and Emergency Services/Emergency Planning</p> <p>PPN</p>	Ongoing	Participation

80	To encourage, support and participate in third level education and research and development in the area of climate action and low-carbon technologies in conjunction with third level institutions, EU projects and the regional assembly.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Participation in EU research and shared learning projects. » Collaborative events/training with third level institutions. 	Environment and Climate Action	All sections TUS Other 3 rd Level Institutes	Ongoing	Time and Resources
81	Carry out a feasibility assessment of Council owned land assets to determine if it would be possible to identify a site(s) for a 100% owned community-led Renewable Energy development. If considered feasible, progress the project to delivery, ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protected considerations. If considered feasible, progress the project to delivery, having appropriate regard to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria.	Both	Complete feasibility within 12 months.	Corporate Support Services	TEA, Economic, Community and Rural Development (including Just Transition). Environment and Climate Action Planning and Development (including Town Centre First), Finance	Q1 2025 2025 for feasibility report Q2 2027 for delivery if feasible	Resources and funding

Strategic Goal No. 7

Embed climate change and the circular economy approach in implementation of all local economic development strategies and plans for example, the Local Economic and Community Plan, Local Development Strategy etc.

Actions

No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Lead Department	Partners	Timeframe	Dependencies
82	In the development of new local authority plans, programmes or strategies to mainstream, as strategic objectives, the climate actions as set out in this LACAP (mitigation and adaption), the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Circular Economy concept.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Climate action to be highlighted as strategic issue in plans (as they are reviewed) such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Local Development Strategy ii. Local Economic and Development Plan iii. Corporate Plan iv. Annual Service delivery plan v. County Development Plan etc » Climate action office to be contacted to provide input and advice at policy development stage. 	All Directorates	Environment and Climate Action	Ongoing	<p>Awareness of climate action measures</p> <p>resourcing of the Climate action office to enable them provide support and input into plan making/policy development</p>
83	Incorporate and embed climate action/circular economy awareness into all Council-led educational programmes for example museum, libraries programmes, arts, culture and heritage, community development.	Both	Climate action awareness in all programmes.	All Directorates (as relevant)	Environment and Climate Action	Ongoing	Awareness of climate action measures

Theme: Sustainability & Resource Management

Strategic Goal No. 8

Enable the development of a circular economy across sectors and communities based on sustainable practices using renewable and carbon neutral technology and to increase the proportion of green procurement so we can influence, measure and reduce emissions from the production, transportation and disposal of goods and services we procure and use and enable a circular economy through our own actions.

Actions

No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Lead Department	Partners	Timeframe	Dependencies
84	Prepare, adopt and implement a 'Green Public Procurement Strategy' in line with Guidance from the EPA and DECC, and when procuring goods, services and works in accordance with the National Programme for Government ensure its mandatory application.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Strategy in place » Pre-Tender compliance checks » Compliance with Green Public Procurement Strategy/Plan » Training and support programme. 	Finance	Management team Buyers in all sections of the organisation Procurement Coordinators	Q4 2024 Ongoing	Funding and Resources Support at organisational and management level
85	Promote the use of Broadband Connection Point (BCPs) hubs for interagency meetings, to reduce the need for travelling by stakeholders by providing an alternative to standard meeting formats.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increase in use of BCPs for meetings. » Reduced need for travel by Council staff/stakeholders » Promotion measures. 	Economic, Community and Rural Development	Broadband Connection Point Operators PPN	Ongoing	Advertising/Messaging Management protocols

86	Through the 'Lean for Micro' programme support the implementation of the first steps to Green Competitiveness by examination and elimination of wastes in a business.	Mitigation	15 SME's to be supported per year.	Local Enterprise Office	PPN	Ongoing	Availability of Consultants and funding
87	Through the 'Green for Micro' programme assist businesses in lowering their carbon footprint, reducing costs and improving the environmental profile of the business in the marketplace.	Mitigation	17 SME'S to be supported per year.	Local Enterprise Office	Business Groups	Ongoing	Availability of technical and/or advisory supports
88	Develop a protocol for and to commence air quality monitoring in each of the Key Towns to determine the quality of air at key locations in towns.	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Development of protocol » Number of air quality monitoring locations » Publication of quarterly results 	Environment and Climate Action office	Roads and Transportation & Active Travel	Commence in Q4 2024	Funding
89	Participate/lead in strategic projects and collaborations, for example, The Atlantic Green Digital Basin Shannon, National Bioeconomy Campus etc, in order to enhance opportunities for Green/Renewable Energy in Tipperary, whilst seeking to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Mitigation	No. of meetings held	Economic, Community and Rural Development	MWREP TEA National Bioeconomy Campus Others as opportunities arise	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Project Funding » Agency support » Technical expertise
90	To deliver an exemplar 'Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy' as the anchor and catalyst for the redevelopment of Martyr's Road Regeneration Quarter, located in Nenagh Town Centre.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Data captured through BIM » Delivery of objectives as identified in URDF funding application » Green Public Procurement applied 	Nenagh District	TEA NTDC SEAI DECC TUS	Design Team in place and progressing planning Q1 2024	Appointment of Design Team Approval from URDF Buy in from Partners Resources

Strategic Goal No. 9

Influence, co-ordinate, facilitate and advocate for other agencies, sectors and communities wherever feasible through the delivery of our services and in the implementation of other sectoral plans at local level.

Actions

No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Lead Department	Partners	Timeframe	Dependencies
91	Work with and support the NTA and Tipperary Transport Co-ordination Unit in the delivery and expansion of public transport initiatives in the county, whilst seeking to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Combined	Number of initiatives supported	Roads and Transportation	NTA TTCU Local Link PPN	Annual	Public transport operators
92	In conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, collaborate with tourism operators and stakeholders in Tipperary to assist them in embedding climate action and responsible tourism practices in county Tipperary.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No. of education and training events with a climate action focus. » Development of a 'green certification' system for Tipperary tourism. » No. of networking events with a climate action focus. 	Economic, Community and Rural Development (including Just Transition) (Tourism Office)	Fáilte Ireland	Annual	National Training and Guidance for the sector
93	Through its wide range of sports networks and stakeholders, the Tipperary Sports Partnership will promote an ethos of sustainability and awareness of need for positive climate action.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Number of sports clubs engaging in equipment recycling and reuse. » Preparation of a set of Guidance for 'Sustainable Sports Events'. 	Economic, Community and Rural Development (including Just Transition). (Sports Partnership)	GAA and other sporting organisations and groups PPN	Annual	Participation of sporting organisations

94	<p>Advocate for improved rail transport services on interregional routes, key improvements to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The reopening of the rail route between Rosslare harbour and Waterford Town. » Improved rail services/facilities on existing rail routes (Limerick to Waterford and Limerick, Ballybrophy/Dublin lines) that service Tipperary's Towns » The development of a rail freight hub at Limerick Junction. » Seek to ensure such improvements promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects. 	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Numbers of passengers on existing rail services. » New or enhanced rail services and routes. » Increase in journey speeds. 	<p>Roads, and Transportation</p> <p>Active Travel</p>	<p>Corporate Policy Group</p> <p>Environment and Climate Action</p> <p>National Transport Authority</p> <p>Tipperary rail partnership</p> <p>Transport Infrastructure Ireland</p>	Annual	<p>National Rail and Bus services.</p> <p>National Funding</p>
95	<p>Advocate for improved bus transport in Tipperary and in the region, key improvements to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » New routes » Integrated ticketing » Increased services » Seek to ensure such improvements promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects. 	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Numbers of passengers on existing bus services. » New bus services and routes. » Investment/ intervention on these national transport routes. 	<p>Roads, and Transportation</p> <p>Active Travel</p>	<p>Transport Infrastructure Ireland</p>	Annual	<p>National and Local Bus services.</p> <p>National Funding</p>
96	<p>Manage and administer funding, and work with owners and communities, to safeguard archaeological heritage in public and private ownership through the 'Community Monuments Fund'</p>	Adaptation	<p>Number of sites per year funded through scheme</p>	<p>Libraries and Cultural Services/ Biodiversity</p>	<p>National Monuments Service</p>	Annual	<p>Public Participation and uptake</p>

97	Promote and encourage a modal shift to active travel and public transport by raising public awareness of Active Travel Infrastructure and services.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Run 1 media campaign per year » Identify Active Travel Champions » Liaise with Green Schools Programme 	Roads and Transportation Active Travel	NTA Environment and Climate Action	Annual	Funding and support
98	Facilitate, advocate for and support the agriculture sector in meeting their own emissions reductions targets and in achieving energy in agriculture, farm diversification and smart climate land-use for example, opportunities around the bio-economy.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Support an annual 'Agriculture and Farm Diversification' event each year. » Roll-out of Mid-Tipperary DZ actions 	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First)	Environment and Climate Action CARO LAWPRO LEO Teagasc	Annual	Support from key Stakeholders
99	To seek the maximum available funding under the 'Just Transition Fund' for Tipperary with focus on Climate Action (mitigation and adaptation) measures and the role of the Decarbonising Zone.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Amount of funding received » Number of projects commenced each year 	Economic, Community and Rural Development (including Just Transition).	EMRA Environment and Climate Action Planning and Development	Annual	Match Funding and Resources
100	Seek to actively support the development of the bioeconomy in Tipperary, including new and emerging technologies, both in the Decarbonising Zone (National Bioeconomy Campus) and elsewhere in the county in line with the National Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023 – 2025, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure bioeconomy related development and activities promote climate action and adaptation co-benefits, and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Actively seek funding under national programmes 	Economic, Community and Rural Development (including Just Transition)	Planning and Development (including Town Centre First) Environment and Climate Action	Annual	Publication of the National Bio-Economy Action Plan 2023 – 2025 and funding supports

Nature-based solutions for the control of surface water runoff at the Regional Sports Complex Clonmel



Tipperary Climate Action Website
www.tipperarycoco.ie/climateaction

Climate Action Office
climateaction@tipperarycoco.ie

Community Climate Action Fund
communityfund@tipperarycoco.ie

or call 081 806 5000

