



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Annual Progress Report 2025

Climate Action Plan 2024-2029



April 2026

**'SETTING THE SCENE FOR
GOING GREEN'**

Environment and Climate Action

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Acknowledgments

The Tipperary County Council Climate Action Office wishes to acknowledge the dedication and support for climate action by the various service areas of Tipperary County Council under the stewardship of the Senior Management Team (Climate Action Steering Group). The work and assistance of the Elected Members, and the Environment and Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee is also acknowledged and appreciated.

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

We also wish to thank our partners in Third Level Educational facilities right across the country who have enabled and supported innovation in climate action. In addition, the support of the private and business sectors has been invaluable in providing impetus for, and enabling change.

We also wish to acknowledge the support of the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) who have supported us in embedding climate action across the organisation and in compiling this Progress Report on local authority climate action.

Finally, sincere thank you to all, and in particular, members of the Climate Action Team, Decarbonising Zone Working Group, Decarbonising Advisory Group, the Tipperary Energy Agency and the Energy Management Team.

Glossary of Acronyms

AA	Appropriate Assessment
AIPP	All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
BCP	Broadband Connection Point
BDO	Biomethane Development Office
BEI	Baseline Emissions Inventory
BER	Building Energy Rating
BnM	Bord na Mona
CAO	Climate Action Office (Tipperary County Council)
CARO	Climate Action Regional Office
CATN	Climate action, Transport Network
CCAP	Community and Climate Action Programme
CCMA	County and City Management Association
CRA	Climate Risk Assessment
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DECA	Delivering Effective Climate Action
DCEE	Department of Climate, Energy and Environment
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DoT	Department of Transport
DRCDG	Department of Rural, Community Development and Gaeltacht
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Tourism, and Employment.
DZ	Decarbonising Zone
EMRA	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESB	Electricity Supply Board
ETB	Education and Training Board
EU	European Union
GAA	Gaelic Athletics Association
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GPP	Green Public Procurement
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
GWh	Giga Watt Hour
HVO	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil
IBF	Irish Bioeconomy Foundation
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
JTF	Just Transition Fund
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KtCO2eq	Kilo-tonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
KWH	Kilowatt Hours
LACAP	Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029
LASNTG	Local Authority Services National Training Group

LAWPRO	Local Authority Waters Programme
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LEADER	LEADER Programme for Rural Development
LEAF	Literacy and Food Education
LED	Light-Emitting Diode
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
M & R	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland Energy Monitoring and Reporting programme for local authorities
MD	Municipal District
NBS	Nature-based Solutions
NDCA	National Dialogue on Climate Action
NTA	National Transport Authority
NTDC	North Tipperary Development Company
OPW	Office of Public Works
P2R	Pathways2Resilience
PLEEP	Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project
PPN	Public Participation Network
PV	Photovoltaic
RRDF	Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations)
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SEC	Sustainable Energy Community
SECAP	Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan
SEREU	South East Regional Energy Unit
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time-related
SPC	Strategic Policy Committee
STDC	South Tipperary Development Company
SWAT	Severe Weather Assessment Team
TCC	Tipperary County Council
TEA	Tipperary Energy Agency
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
TII RDO	Transport infrastructure Ireland – Regional Design Office
TTCU	Tipperary Transport Co-ordination Unit
TUS	Technological University of the Shannon
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
URDF	Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
ZEVI	Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure

1

Introduction





Figure 1: *Nature Based Solutions to surface water management from car park in Tipperary*

1. Introduction

1.1 Local Authority role in Climate Action

Local Authorities are part of a wide and complex climate action movement in Ireland. This in turn is informed by Global and European climate action law, funding support and guidance. Local authorities are unique due to their close relationship with local communities, sectoral and business networks, and for their breadth of technical expertise, experience and access to networks. This relationship enables them to embed positive climate measures and adaptation responses at

the local level across their existing and new programmes, functions and services.

Whilst Local Authorities have a strategic and important role in climate action within their own service delivery, they support rather than hold responsibility for other sectors, for example business and enterprise, agriculture, renewable energy, transport etc in meeting their emissions reductions targets (as set by the National Climate Action Plan). The responsibility of local authorities is defined here:

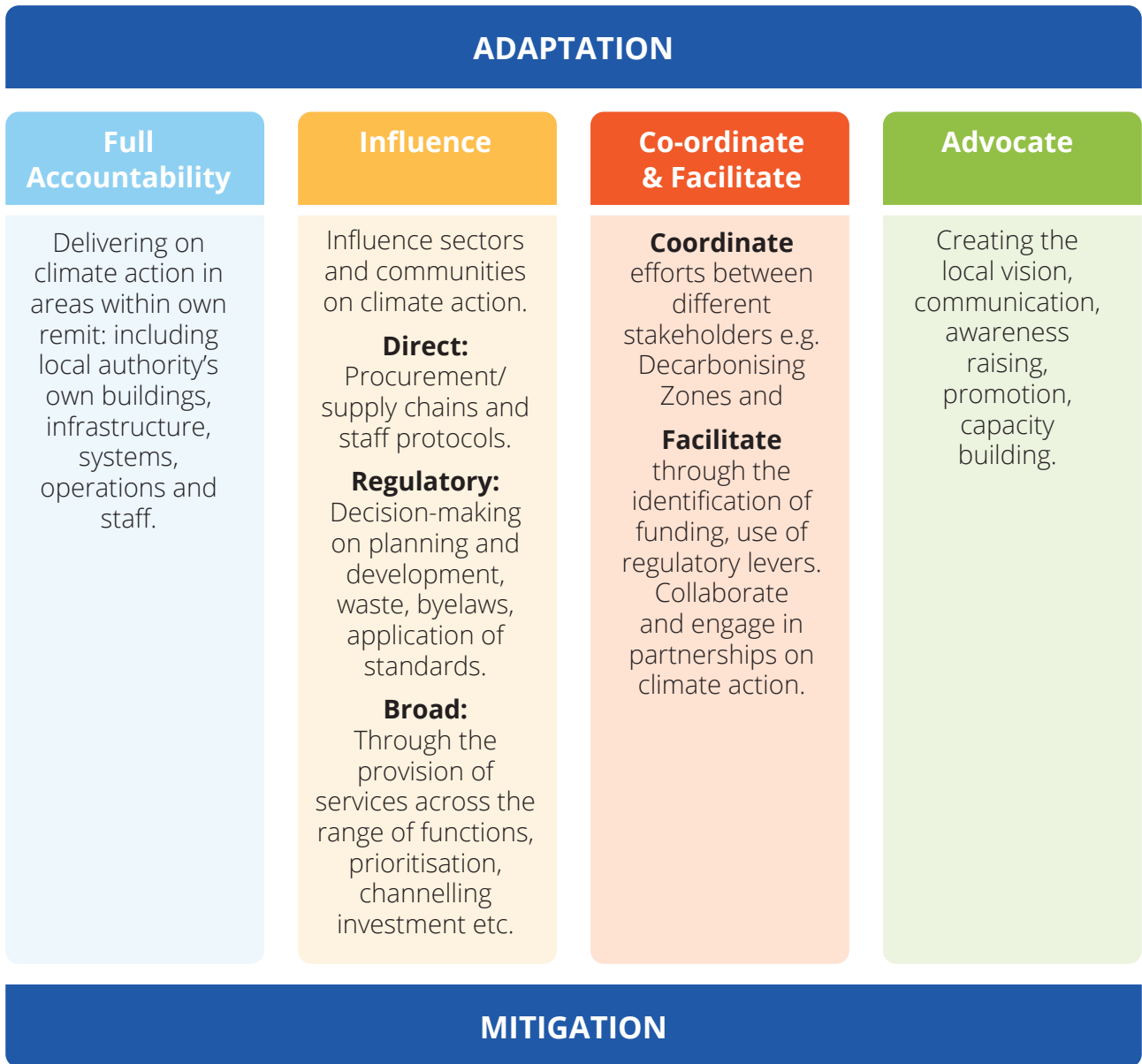


Figure 2: *The Council's role and scope in Climate Action (Climate Action Regional Office)*

Accountability:

Tipperary County Council is fully accountable 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, Tipperary County Council influences sectors, businesses, communities and individuals in the delivery of local climate action.

Co-ordinate and Facilitate:

Tipperary County Council coordinates and facilitates 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:

Tipperary County Council advocates on climate action through raising awareness, communicating, informing, and engaging in dialogues on climate related issues and responses.

The Tipperary County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 (LACAP) was adopted on the 12th of February 2024. The LACAP sets out how the Council is reducing energy use and increasing energy efficiency across its own properties, facilities and fleet, and also how the Council through its actions is actively influencing, facilitating and advocating for climate action across other sectors and communities in how they achieve their own climate actions and targets. The LACAP comprises 100 actions, along with the 10 opportunity areas and related actions for the Tipperary 'Decarbonising Zone' (DZ).

Setting the Scene for Going Green

Tipperary County Council, for the period of the LACAP, has adopted a logo to represent Climate Action across the organisation. 'Setting the Scene for Going Green' represents the development and delivery of the LACAP and how climate action (mitigation and adaptation) is progressively being embedded and delivered across Council services. The logo illustrates the interdependencies between our countryside and water bodies, the key towns, communities and features of the county are represented, the logo for the circular economy is highlighted along with the representation of renewable energy resources (sun and wind). Tipperary County Council is supporting the Whole of Government Climate Communications Strategy by including the "We're Taking Climate Action" logo in our climate action communications.



1.2 Annual Climate Action Progress Report

This is the second annual 'Progress Report' of the LACAP. This progress report reflects the plan implementation period from January 2025 to December 2025. This report is a summary of climate action progress by the Council over the year, and seeks to illustrate the range and breadth of climate action delivery across Council services.

The production of an annual Progress Report is an important output of Tipperary County Council, and is presented annually to the members of Tipperary County Council at a designated Plenary meeting of the Council. In advance of the Plenary meeting, a progress update is provided to the Strategic Policy Committee for Environment and Climate Action for their input and comment.

This report summarises the obligation on Tipperary County Council, as a large organisation, with staff, facilities and fleet to be fully accountable for its Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, and how the service delivery of the Council can influence, co-ordinate and facilitate, and advocate for climate action within communities and other sectors.

This report also, through a selection of case studies outlined in Section 8, highlights the cross-departmental approach being taken to enable positive climate change by our staff and representatives across all aspects of local authority service delivery.

2

Leadership and Governance



2. Leadership and Governance

2.1 Climate Action Governance and Structure

The Tipperary County Council Climate Action Office (CAO) was established in spring 2023 with the support of funding from DCEE. In line with every other local authority, the core roles in the CAO comprise the following:

1. Climate Action Coordinator
2. Climate Action Officer
3. Community Climate Action Programme Officer

In addition to these three core roles, and reflecting its leadership role, TCC has expanded its CAO to include the following additional three roles;

4. Stakeholder and Community Participation Officer for the DZ
5. Climate Action Assistant (National Graduate Programme)
6. Pathfinder South East Regional Energy Manager

The CAO is supported by the Climate Action Steering Group (CASG), chaired by the Chief Executive, and comprised of the members of the Senior Management Team. The CASG provides strategic guidance and oversight to the CAO and the Climate Action Team (CAT). The CAT is comprised of senior staff from all service areas, and their role is to act as champions for climate change in their own service areas, and to deliver and report on the actions of the LACAP.

The Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA) provides advisory and technical services to the Council including the monitoring and reporting of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

Please refer to the County Council webpage for more details on the link: [Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan | Tipperary County Council](#)

2.2 Climate Action Regional Office

The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) coordinates and supports local authorities in delivering transformative change and measurable climate action. Tipperary is located in the Eastern and Midlands CARO region, this comprises of 17 counties each with common challenges in mitigating the effects of climate change and in adapting to climate change. Please refer to the CARO webpage for more details: [Home - CARO](#)



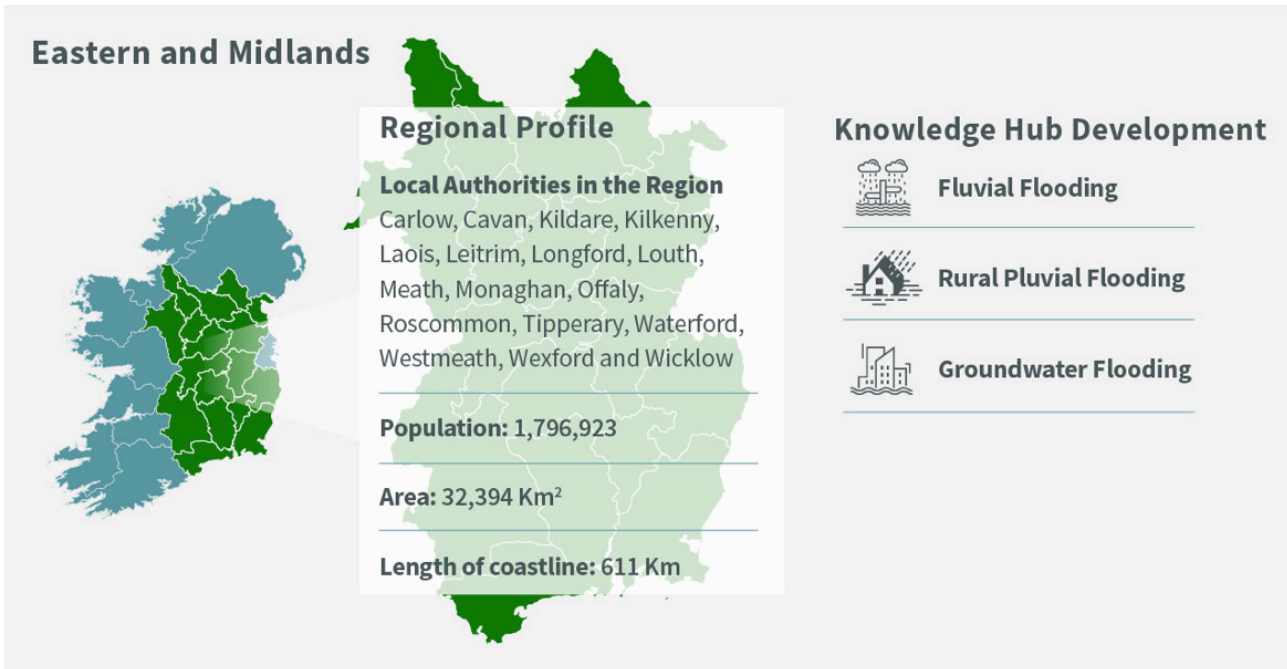


Figure 3: Eastern and Midlands CARO infographic

2.3 Climate Action National Key Performance Indicators

The City and County Management Association (CCMA) Climate Action, Transport and Networks (CATN) Committee and the CCMA Climate Action KPI Working Group are responsible for tracking, measuring and reporting on progress in delivering effective climate action at both local authority and sectoral levels.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for climate action have evolved in number since 2021 commensurate with strengthening climate policy and broadly reflect the key areas of work contained in the local government strategy on climate action – Delivering Effective Climate Action (DECA) 2030 and the National Climate

Action Plan. Climate Action KPIs are now collected over 10 key areas, please refer to Table 1 for details of the KPI data collection themes.



The National KPI report for the period 2024 was published in October 2025, and in terms of 'mainstreaming' of climate action, Tipperary County Council showed an above average performance. In terms of organisational governance, Tipperary County Council is in the top 10 of all Local Authorities and has maintained a fully

staffed climate action office. In addition, an above average number of CASG and CAT meetings were held demonstrating cross-departmental staff involved in Climate Action Teams and sub-groups in 2024.

The publication of the KPI report for the period 2025 is expected in October

2026. All local authorities were asked to commence their reporting for 2025 on the 8th January 2026 and data collection was completed on the 30th January 2026. Please refer to the dedicated website for more details: [2024 Local Government Climate Action KPI Report](#).

Local Government CA KPI Theme	Climate Action Theme	Data Supplied by
1. Climate Action Staff	Mainstreaming	Local Authorities
2. Climate Action Team	Mainstreaming	Local Authorities
3. Active Travel Projects	Mitigation	National Transport Authority (NTA)
4. Social Housing Retrofit	Mitigation	LGMA Housing Delivery Coordination Office
5. Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Mitigation	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
6. Climate Action Plans	Adaptation / Mitigation	Local Authorities and Eastern & Midlands CARO
7. Severe Weather Response	Adaptation / Mitigation	Local Authorities
8. Councillor and Staff Training	Internal Behavioural change and Capacity Building	Local Authorities Service Network Training Group (LASTNG)
9. Green for Micro	Internal Behavioural change and Capacity Building	Enterprise Ireland
10. Community Climate Action Programme	Internal Behavioural change and Capacity Building	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

Table 1: Local Government KPIs for Climate Action

For the 2024 KPI publication, data was collected directly from local authorities, including from Tipperary County Council in early 2025.

2.4 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The DCEE has overall responsibility for promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). There are 17 SDGs and the implementation of all are key to our sustainable future.

Action 17 relates to Climate Action, however, the achievement of many more are key to sustainable development of the county. There is significant cross-departmental awareness of the SDGs and they are routinely considered in the development of new policy and service delivery.

For example, the SDGs (including Climate Action) have been deeply embedded in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, the LACAP, the Tipperary Local Economic and Development Plan 2024 and the Tipperary Corporate Plan 2024 -2029 – Reshaping Tipperary’s Future Together. The Council supports the annual national SDG week with events and activities across the county.

2.5 Mainstreaming of Climate Action in our Plans and Operations

Action 82 of the LACAP requires the Council

‘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 adaptation), the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Circular Economy concept’

In line with this action, Climate Action objectives and actions have been integrated into the numerous policies, strategies and plans associated with Tipperary County Council. Listed below are some of the key strategic documents that will guide the county vision, functions and programmes and the social and economic progress of Tipperary.



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

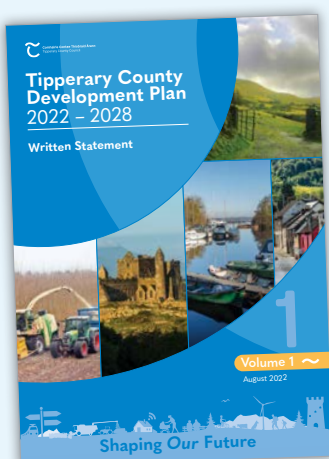
Tipperary County Council Corporate Plan 2024 - 2029 'Reshaping Our Future Together'

Core value Number Two Sustainability and Climate Change:

- ▶ Commit to enhancing and managing our environment
- ▶ Ensure our practices are environmentally responsible
- ▶ Adopt sustainable best practices in line with the UN SDGs
- ▶ Minimise, through action, climate change and adapt to its effects

- ▶ Support communities to be sustainable and resilient.

[TCC Corporate Plan 2024-2029.pdf](#)



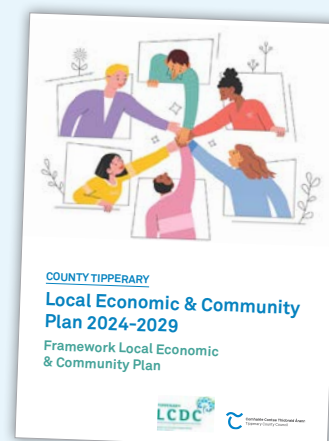
Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

A Plan for resilience, and for recovery from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, for sustainable towns and rural areas, and for self-sustaining and inclusive communities. The Plan is a proactive spatial planning framework for sustainable future growth, building on the strengths and assets of the county, its communities and its environment.

Five 'Core Ambitions' integrate the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainability and inform this Plan, including the ambition to be a 'Climate Resilient, Sustainable and Low-Carbon County' [Tipperary County Development Plan 2022- 2028 | Tipperary County Council](#)

Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029

Sets out objectives and actions to promote and support economic and community development. High Level Goal 3: That Tipperary would be rich in biodiversity and, at a minimum, contribute its fair share to national targets for reductions in GHGs, that its households, communities, and businesses would be active in adapting to climate change, and that environmental impact considerations would inform all decisions in the county. Climate adaptation and mitigation are important in underpinning quality of life, environmental health, and sustainable and positive economic development. [Local Economic and Community Plan for County Tipperary | Tipperary County Council](#)



2.6 Participation in EU Climate Action Networks and Programmes

Action 80 of the LACAP requires the Council 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'.

Tipperary County Council actively supports climate action programmes and initiatives at the European level and the Council is a signatory of two key European collaborative climate action programmes. Participation with our European partners provides access to funding opportunities, shared learning and collaboration opportunities and illustrates the genuine commitment of Tipperary County Council to climate action.



EU Covenant of Mayors

The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is the largest movement of local governments in Europe acting on climate change to secure a better future for their citizens. It gathers over 10,500 local authorities voluntarily committed to the European Union's energy and climate targets.

As a keystone initiative of the European Commission, the Covenant of Mayors

empowers cities and towns of all sizes to act on energy and climate in line with the EU's vision for a climate-neutral, resilient and fair future for all. There are 22 regional and local authority members of the EU Covenant of Mayors in Ireland including Tipperary County Council who became a signatory in 2016.

[EU Covenant of Mayors | EU Covenant of Mayors](#)



EU Missions for Climate Adaptation

Tipperary County Council became a signatory of the EU Missions for Climate Change Adaptation in 2025.

It is the aim of the EU Missions to enhance climate resilience across European regions and local authorities by supporting at least 150 communities in adapting to climate risks by 2030. Over the past two years, Tipperary County Council has received significant funding under two of the EU Missions flagship projects – 'Pathways2Resilience' and 'CLIMAAX'.

[EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change Portal Climate-ADAPT](#)

Pathways2Resilience

In 2024, Tipperary County Council applied for and was awarded EU funding to participate in an 18-month EU funded programme, Pathways2Resilience (P2R). This project has provided funding to enable the appointment of a full-time Bioeconomy Development Officer based in the Economic, Community and Rural Development Department.

The focus of the Tipperary P2R project is to support capacity building with stakeholders to help move towards a resilient and sustainable circular bioeconomy in Tipperary. The Circular Bioeconomy presents opportunities to both improve climate change adaptation and resilience, and to transform our society to move towards a more sustainable way of producing, managing and using our bio-based resources.



Co-funded by the European Union



This is aligned with Action 100 of the LACAP which supports the county's move towards a more sustainable way of producing, managing and using the bio-based resources of the county. Tipperary is one of 40 European regions participating in the programme, and is supporting the development of a sustainable bioeconomy centred on the work of the National Bioeconomy Campus at the former Lisheen Mine, Thurles. (See section 8.12 for further details on how Tipperary County Council is supporting the bioeconomy).

For further details click on this link [Pathways2Resilience](#)



Figure 4: Clare Lee, Anique Godjo and Elaine Cullinan, Tipperary County Council at public event with the support of the P2R Programme

Climate Risk Assessment

Tipperary
County Council
in partnership
with KPMG



Ireland, are participating in 'Climaax' a Horizon Europe funded project, developed to enhance regional climate resilience. Work began on Phase 1 in June of 2025 with the assessment of current and future climate risks faced by Tipperary, particularly focusing on impacts to local government services, the community, and the environment. The objective was to identify critical climate hazards and determine their potential impacts alongside relevant stakeholders' engagement. This involved stakeholder mapping, risk exploration workshops, and screening of climate hazards. The assessment identified seven main climate hazards, namely

1. river flooding,
2. windstorms,
3. heavy rainfall,
4. heatwaves,
5. droughts,
6. fires, and
7. snow.

The outcome of Phase 1 of the project found that river flooding, wind, and heavy rainfall all require action within the next 5 years to manage current and future risks. Two additional hazards, heatwaves and snow have been identified as key long-term risks, based on Tipperary County Council's role and responsibilities. While

these hazards are currently managed appropriately, further adaptation measures will likely be required to mitigate future risks. Therefore, based on the above the following five hazards were chosen to bring forward into Phase 2;

- ▶ river flooding,
- ▶ wind,
- ▶ heavy rainfall,
- ▶ heatwaves,
- ▶ snow.

The outcomes of Phase 1 now lay the foundations for Phase 2 (September 24 – June 25), which will refine risk assessments and identify adaptation strategies across various climate hazards. This process aims to integrate local data on hazards, vulnerabilities, and exposures to enhance the accuracy of future risk evaluations and inform policy decisions. Engaging community stakeholders throughout this journey is vital to ensure that the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) outcomes align with local needs and promote effective climate action.

CRA represents a crucial step towards understanding and mitigating climate risks in County Tipperary, identifying adaptive measures and policies will significantly contribute to building resilience within the region and serve as a potential model for other local authorities in Ireland facing similar challenges. The project is expected to be completed by end 2026.

For further details click on this link [Project - Climaax](#)

3

Climate Action Monitoring



3. Climate Action Monitoring

3.1 Climate Actions

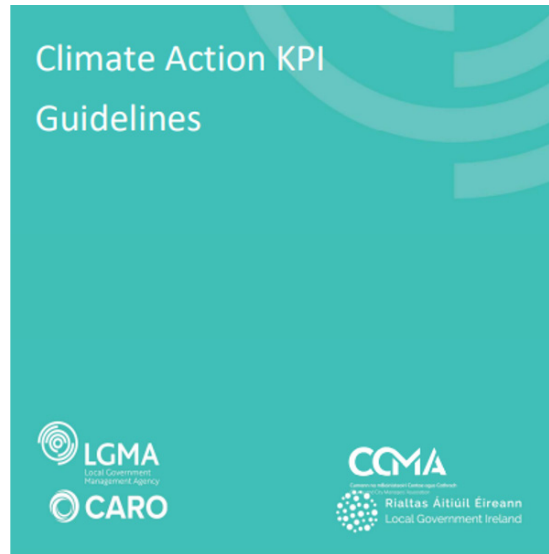
The LACAP contains 100 actions across five thematic areas including: Governance and Leadership, Built Environment and Transport, Communications, Resilience and Just Transition, Sustainability and Resource Management and Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure.



Figure 5: LACAP Thematic Areas for Climate Action

As explained in Section 2.3, annual monitoring of LACAP action delivery is carried out by Tipperary County Council and reported through the National KPI Monitoring Programme. A summary of LACAP action delivery is set out below, and Section 8 provides further details on LACAP delivery, leadership and case studies across Tipperary County Council services. The 2025 Climate Action KPI data collection gathers data directly from local authorities in relation to four of the ten indicators:

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



Summary of LACAP Climate Actions delivery 2025

LACAP Action type	Number of Actions
Completed¹	75
In Progress	27
Not commenced	8
Total (incl 10 DZ Opportunity areas)	110

Table 2: LACAP Action Status 2025 (KPI Monitoring Programme)

Climate Actions as set out in the LACAP are delivered by the Section assigned for the delivery of each action. A designated member of the CAT is responsible for annual reporting of actions to the Climate Action Coordinator.

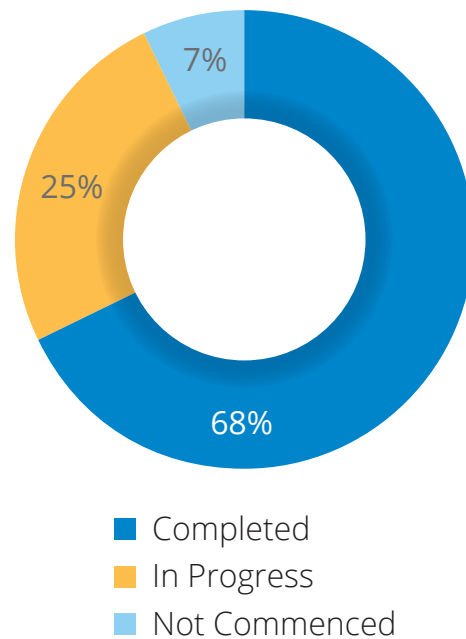


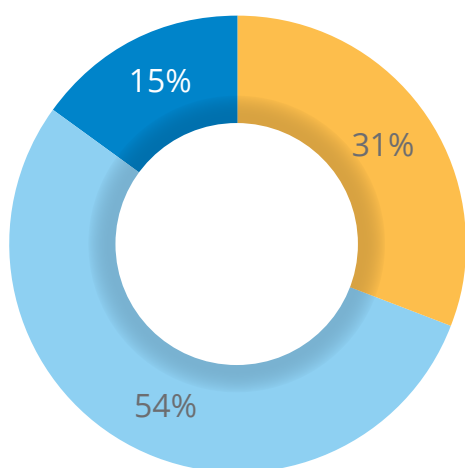
Figure 6: LACAP Actions Implementation Status (as percentage of total actions)

¹ Including those actions that are delivered annually.

It was found that for the period 2025, 75 of the LACAP actions (100 actions plus 10 DZ Opportunity areas) were completed, 27 were classified as 'In progress' (with delivery timelines that extend to a period greater than a 12-month period) and it was found that 8 LACAP actions had yet to commence. Out of 110 actions in the LACAP, 93 of these are actions that reoccur annually.

3.2 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

LACAP actions are classified by whether they relate to mitigation of climate change, adaptation to climate change or actions that achieve both outcomes. In the LACAP, 31% of the climate actions relate to mitigation (30 actions), 15% relate to adaptation (14 actions) and 54% (66 actions) will contribute to the delivery of both climate adaptation and mitigation.



■ Adaptation ■ Mitigation ■ Combined

Figure 7: LACAP actions by Action Type

A key obligation for Tipperary County Council is climate change mitigation in the form of reduced GHG emissions and increased energy efficiency (Actions 30, 31 and 32 of the LACAP) across the organisation. For further detail on this refer to Section 6 Organisational Energy Performance. In addition to this, there are many more actions that will enable the mitigation of climate change through service delivery.

Climate Risk Assessment and Severe Weather Event Response

The Tipperary County Council Climate Change Risk Assessment, 2023 (CCRA)² 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. Future climate hazards and impacts are outlined in Figure 10.

In Ireland, it is the Local authorities who co-ordinate the response to severe weather events and emergencies. Adverse weather like storms, snow and ice, heatwaves or high winds can cause widespread disruption and can be dangerous. Climate change is increasing the severity of these events across the county. The LACAP sets out specific actions that relate to the ability for the Council to adapt to these emerging climate risks and severe weather events.

² Tipperary Co Council Climate Change Risk Assessment 2023.pdf

	Hazard Type	Projected Frequency	Projected Frequency (Score)	Asset Damage	Health and Wellbeing	Environment	Social	Financial	Reputation	Cultural Heritage	Projected Impact
Future Impacts	River Flood	Frequent	4	Major	Major	Moderate	Moderate	Major	Moderate	Major	3.57
	Drought	Frequent	4	Moderate	Major	Major	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Negligible	3.00
	Severe Windstorm	Very Frequent	5	Moderate	Major	Major	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Moderate	2.71
	Extreme Precipitation	Very Frequent	5	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	2.43
	Pluvial Flood	Frequent	4	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	2.43
	Heatwave	Frequent	4	Minor	Moderate	Major	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	2.29
	Above Average Precipitation	Frequent	4	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	2.00
	Above Average Surface Temperature	Frequent	4	Negligible	Negligible	Catastrophic	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	2.00
	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

■ Catastrophic
 ■ Major
 ■ Moderate
 ■ Minor
 ■ Negligible

Figure 8: Assessment of Future Climate Hazards and Impacts



Figure 9: Severe snow and severe rain events in Tipperary during 2025

The Tipperary County Council Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) examine operational needs and risks around severe weather events (Action 25 of the LACAP). The SWAT team is constantly aware of, and monitors the risks associated with climatic changes and their relevance for securing the functional and operational needs of the Council.

In 2025, the SWAT was convened 12 times in response to the following weather events:

- ▶ Wind (5 meetings of the SWAT)
- ▶ Snow/ice (6 meetings of the SWAT)
- ▶ Rain (1 meeting of the SWAT)

The Severe Weather Emergency Plan becomes effective once the SWAT team convenes and helps to coordinate a safe response to weather warning as issued by Met Eireann. Section 8.8 sets out further details on the Council's emergency response to extreme weather events during 2025.

4

Decarbonising Zone



4. Decarbonising Zone

Under the National Climate Action Plan (2019) and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, Local Authorities are mandated to identify at least one DZ within their respective administrative areas. Details of the Tipperary DZ is set out in Chapter 6 of the LACAP, where a suite of 10 Opportunities and 37 related Actions to be delivered through Tipperary County Council services in collaboration with external stakeholders and communities are outlined.

Key to delivery of actions is the internally focused Tipperary County Council DZ Working Group and the externally focused DZ Steering Group.



The Tipperary DZ is unique in that it is an inland and rural DZ, covering an area of 313 km² across 14 Electoral Divisions with a population of approximately 7,100 people. Strategically anchored around the former Lisheen mine, now home to the National Bioeconomy Campus, the zone also includes extensive former Bord na Móna industrial peatlands, within a rich agricultural and forestry hinterland.

The DZ includes twelve villages: Two Mile Borris, Littleton, Gortnahoo, Templetohy, Ballynonty, Horse & Jockey, Moyne, Castleleiny, Glengoole (New Birmingham), Ballysloe, Ballinure, and Grange. These unique characteristics position the Tipperary DZ as a distinctive inland, rural testbed and demonstrator for Ireland's climate transition, offering opportunities

for innovation in renewable energy, bioeconomy development, community-led decarbonisation, and sustainable employment and regeneration.

In 2025, efforts were primarily directed toward stakeholder and community engagement to identify and advance opportunities arising from the DZ designation. Active participation from stakeholders and local communities remains central to achieving the vision for the DZ, which encompasses initiatives in the bioeconomy, biodiversity enhancement, forestry and tree planting, peatland rehabilitation, clean energy solutions, and the development of Sustainable Energy Communities (an SEAI initiative).

Additional priorities include village renewal, placemaking, tourism and the creation of local employment opportunities. These actions aim to deliver multiple benefits through a just transition, supporting the development of low-carbon, sustainable rural communities.

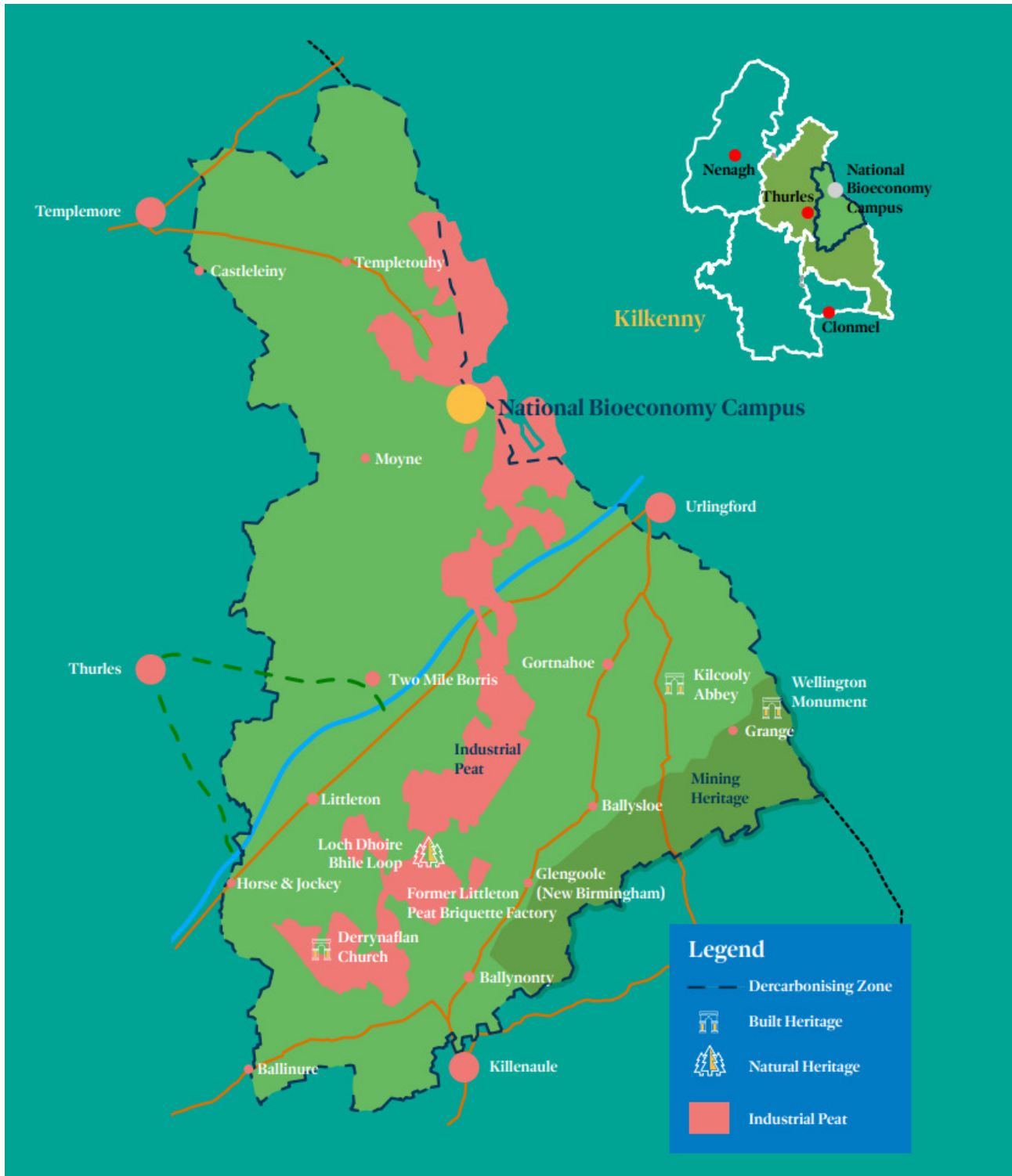


Figure 10: Map of the Mid Tipperary Decarbonising Zone

4.1 Communications, Branding and Awareness 2025

Branding

In 2025, a suite of DZ branded assets were developed including logo, colour palette and pull-up banners. This branding is now integrated in all DZ communications outputs and engagement activities.

Video

A DZ promotional [video](#), incorporating the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen was developed with funding from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

Tipperary County Council influence Peatland Rehabilitation

In 2025, the CAO actively engaged with Bord na Móna (BnM) by making submissions on five draft rehabilitation

plans for bogs located within the DZ. These submissions provided an opportunity to emphasize the DZ designation and explore collaboration with BnM on local initiatives that support tourism development and job creation. The submissions made by the Council to BnM are supportive of peatland rehabilitation measures in the DZ, noting the expected resultant benefits, including carbon emissions reductions and carbon capture.

Communications

Successfully delivering the strategic objectives for the DZ, as outlined in the LACAP, requires collaboration and cooperation across a wide range of stakeholders and communities. To support this, a strategic and structured approach



Figure 11: Screenshot from the DZ video

to communications is being implemented to ensure messaging is clear, relevant, and meaningful for target audiences.

For example, a dedicated communications plan was developed and executed for the DZ event “Powering Our Communities” (see Section 4.3). This approach leveraged existing Council communications channels with local press, radio and social media. In addition, updates on DZ engagement activities are regularly published in the staff newsletter ‘Our Tipp Times’, an important channel for keeping staff, management, and Elected Members informed and engaged.

4.2 Community Engagement

Schools

During April and May, a series of Climate Action and Decarbonisation Workshops were delivered across ten primary schools within the DZ by [The Rediscovery Centre](#), Ireland’s National Centre for the Circular Economy. These interactive sessions introduced students to key topics such as climate change and decarbonisation, using practical examples to demonstrate actions that individuals, families, communities, schools, and Local Authorities are taking to support the transition to low-carbon communities.



Figure 12: June edition ‘Our Tipp Times’



Figure 13: Primary school pupils in the DZ engaging well with climate action workshop April 25 (at Glengoole NS)

Internal Stakeholders

The DZ Working Group is a multidisciplinary group of Tipperary County Council operational staff from relevant service sections and including the DZ Outreach and Stakeholder Officer. This group plays a critical role delivering the 37 DZ Actions outlined in Chapter 6 of the LACAP.

The group convened three times in 2025, with each meeting providing progress updates on actions delivered. For example, a planning information webinar was delivered by members of the Tipperary County Council planning staff to staff from the Biomethane Development Office and the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF) based at the National Bioeconomy Campus. The session focused on the national, regional and local planning policy framework and development management processes

relating to renewable energy projects, including for example, anaerobic digestion technology.

External Stakeholders

The Tipperary DZ Stakeholder Group was established in September by the DZ Stakeholder and Outreach Officer as a multi-stakeholder forum to support the implementation and coordination of actions identified in the LACAP. Membership includes Tipperary County Council, the SEAI, EcoVision Energy Communities Co-op, the TEA and the North and South Tipperary Development Companies.

The need for this group arose from learnings at the 'Powering Our Communities' event held on 17 September 2025 in Moycarkey-Borris Community & Sports Centre, Littleton, particularly to support community interest and ambition for Solar Meitheal

projects and other community-led clean energy solutions. The group adopted a Terms of Reference and met monthly during Q4 2025 to progress collaborative initiatives, identify funding, and ensure structured coordination.

DZ Communities

Community engagement in the DZ has involved informal and accessible discussions, enabled through community cafés like Tigh Maighen in Moyne village, and The Cottage in Loughmore.

These engagements provided opportunities to share information on climate action initiatives underway in the DZ, scoping of community ambitions for clean energy solutions and village enhancement. Meeting residents in familiar community spaces has helped build trust, encourage dialogue, and facilitated local participation in delivering DZ actions and opportunities.



Figure 14: Alan Walsh, DZ Stakeholder and Outreach Officer at a Climate Action Week event in Tigh Maighne Café

Environment and Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee

In September, the DZ Stakeholder and Outreach Officer provided an update on progress within the DZ to the Environment and Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). This engagement is an important mechanism for keeping SPC members informed about ongoing DZ actions and emerging opportunities.

Local Community Development Company

A site visit to the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen for the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was coordinated as part of its September meeting. On the day, information was provided on the plans and opportunities underway with the Tipperary County Council led ‘BioScaleUp’ and ‘Biomethane for Carbon and Communities’ projects. This was an important engagement to keep the LCDC up to date on progress and opportunities at the National Bioeconomy Campus in Tipperary.



Figure 15: LCDC members at the National Bioeconomy Campus at Lisheen.

4.3 Events

On the 16th April, Tipperary County Council hosted the Low Carbon Communities public information event at the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) campus in Thurles. This landmark event brought together climate action stakeholders and communities from within the DZ and surrounding areas.

This event provided a unique opportunity for members of the public and local businesses to engage directly with service providers and learn about available supports, advice, and funding to facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy and sustainable communities.

'Powering our Communities' was a public information event held at the Moycarkey-Borris Community & Sports Centre, Littleton on Wednesday, 17th September. The purpose of the event was to bring together local communities interested in progressing and delivering clean energy and cost-saving solutions within their areas. It provided a valuable networking opportunity for communities to connect with service providers and learn about practical supports available.

The presentations focused on a range of clean energy solutions suitable for community groups, sports clubs, parish councils, community facilities, and homeowners. Notably, the SEAI shared information on Solar Meitheal projects successfully delivered in other counties, which strongly resonated with representatives from communities within the DZ. This was further supported by a SEAI lunchtime webinar on Solar Meitheal delivered in November.

EcoVision Energy Communities Co-Op held a Retrofit Event in Thurles on Thursday 28th August. This was an information event for homeowners, businesses and community groups to find out more on how to start their clean energy journey and start saving money. The Environment and Climate Action Section of Tipperary County Council supported the event and staffed a stand, including with detail on the DZ.

The event provided an opportunity for communities to network and learn from others, with updates on projects currently underway, with funding and technical advice from specialist staff from the SEAI, TEA, EcoVision, Community Power, and Tipperary County Council.

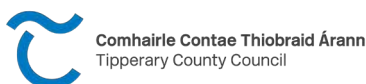




Figure 16: Speakers at the Low Carbon Communities Event, Thurles



Figure 17: Participants at the Powering our Communities event, Littleton

Powering our Communities

Options for communities to save energy and money

A free event for homeowners, residents associations, community groups, energy volunteers, farmers, sports clubs, Group Water Schemes, and others.

VENUE
 Moycarkey-Borris Community & Sports Centre, Littleton
 Wednesday 17th September
 7.00-9.00 pm

Tea, coffee and snacks on arrival. All welcome!

Mid-Tipperary Low Carbon Community

Tipperary County Council is pleased to invite you to a free Public Information Event focused on Climate Action

This whole of community event will bring together a wide range of **Climate Action and Local Carbon Community Service Providers** into one venue and is a unique opportunity for communities and businesses in the area to learn how they can play their part in positive climate action. This event is focused on the **Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone | Tipperary County Council** and the wider area.

Key Event Details

Date: Wednesday the 16th of April 2025
Venue: Technological University of the Shannon Thurles Campus, E41PC92
Time: 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Register Here

SUSTAINABLE Tipperary
YOUR COUNTY. YOUR FUTURE

Figure 18: Brochure for 'Low Carbon Communities' event, Thurles

5

Community Climate Action Programme



5. Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) is a collaborative initiative between local authorities and the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment. It is designed to support communities of all sizes (rural and urban) in taking climate action at local level. Tipperary County Council is provided with a full-time staff member to help support communities in carrying out Climate Action through the CCAP.

This programme offers an opportunity for groups to adopt a holistic approach to reducing carbon emissions and building a more sustainable future. It is open to a wide range of community organisations and is a very important initiative to help community-led projects that help achieve

national climate and energy targets. It supports initiatives in areas like energy efficiency, biodiversity, waste prevention, and sustainable transport, aiming to build low-carbon, sustainable communities across the country (LACAP Action 67).



Figure 19: CCAP Call 2 launch October 2025 with Catherine Broderick and Marie O'Donnell, Tipperary County Council, Environment and Climate Action Section and Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council, Cllr John Carroll.

To date, there has been two funding calls under the CCAP, the first was in 2023 and the second was in 2025. Funding is allocated across 5 themes and in total €700,000 was allocated to Tipperary under each call. The 5 themes are:

1. Energy: Retrofitting community buildings, insulation, low energy lights, community EV charging points.
2. Travel: Active travel, improving access to cycle ways, cycle parking, safe or active travel routes to school.
3. Food and Waste: Community gardens, allotments, food markets, repair hubs, community composting facilities.
4. Shopping and Recycling (Circular Economy): Initiatives aimed at reducing, reusing and recycling, water filling stations, community repair hubs, swap shops.
5. Local Climate and Environment Action: Mini forests, dispersed orchards, community gardens, pollinator/ biodiversity projects, roof gardens.

The Tipperary Public Participation Network (PPN) plays an important role in terms of supporting the Council and reaching out to community groups to enable them to participate in the funding calls and notably all applications to Tipperary County Council for CCAP funding must be registered with the PPN.

In 2025, the CCAP Officer worked with the 24 community groups who were approved funding from Call 1 of the CCAP with all projects nearing completion by end of 2025.

Call 2 of the CCAP was launched on October 17th 2025, with a closing date of 1st of December to submit their applications. 69 applications for funding were received to the second call and it is expected that the projects selected for funding will be presented to the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment in February 2026. For further details, see the webpage here:

[Community Climate Action Fund | Tipperary County Council](#)

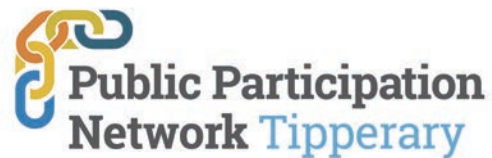


Figure 20: Photos from around the County

	Lead Partner	Funding Recommendation
Small		
1	Burncourt Community Council	€20,000.00
2	Clogheen Tidy Towns	€756.00
3	Thurles Mens Shed	€2,603.00
4	Roscrea Lions Club	€20,000.00
5	Grangemockler Tidy Towns	€13,486.00
6	Nenagh Lawn Tennis Club	€7,426.00
7	Rearcross Community Council	€7,738.00
8	Glengoole Tidy Towns	€5,939.00
9	Kilsheelan Tidy Towns	€5,840.00
10	Cannon Hayes	€14,092.00
11	Clanwilliam Rugby Club	€11,112.00
Medium		
12	Moyglass	€32,163.00
13	Clonmel Og GAA	€32,034.00
14	Castleineey	€25,328.00
15	Rockwell Rovers	€28,064.00
16	Boher Community Development	€40,512.00
17	Ballina Tidy Towns	€42,924.00
18	Eire Og Annacarty Donohill	€30,000.00
19	Knocknarawley Resource Centre	€24,774.00
20	Newcastle Community Council	€34,522.00
Large		
21	Borrisokane Community Sports	€62,257.00
22	Ballyporeen GAA	€73,640.00
23	Loughtagalla Residents Association	€90,178.00
24	Sustainable Project (Ireland)	€74,612.00
	Shared Island Project	
1	Ballypatrick Sports Centre & Belfast Boat Club	€49,493.00
		€749,493.00

Table 3: List of Community groups who received funding under CCAP call 1

6

Organisational Energy Performance



6. Organisational Energy Performance

6.1 Organisational Energy Emissions and Efficiency

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

The SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M & R) system provides a platform for all local authorities to report on their Emission Reduction and Energy Efficiency Targets. The TEA provides support to the Council

in monitoring and reporting. This mainly involves gathering and submitting data for each calendar year. The 2024 data was submitted to SEAI in May 2025.

For the purposes of this 2025 Progress Report, a summary of Tipperary County Council energy performance for the period 2024 is outlined. Figure 23 illustrates the SEAI 'Gap to Target' tool to show the progress made towards the targets as of 2024.

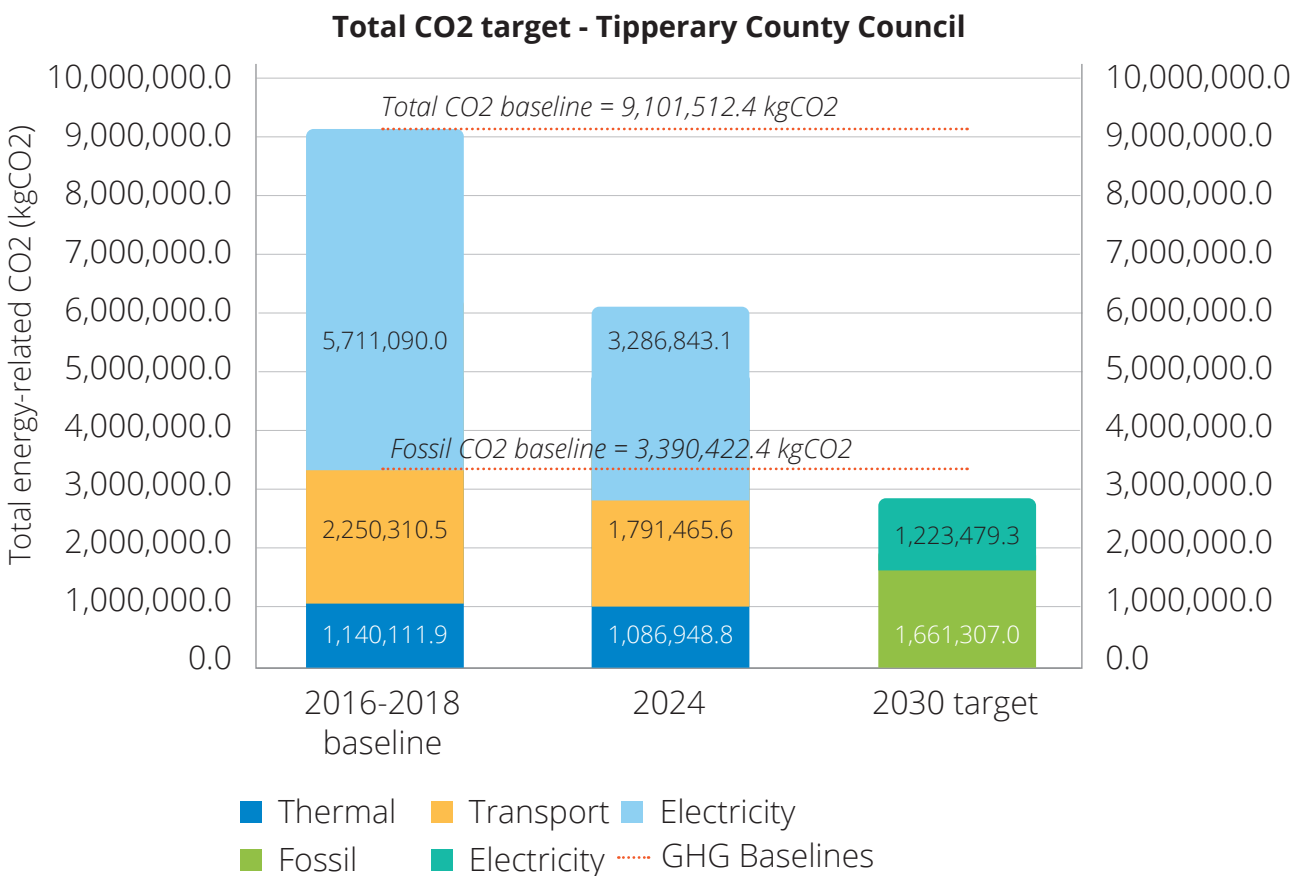


Figure 21: Tipperary County Council Total CO2 Gap-to-Target graph including baseline, 2024 Progress and the 2030 CAP targets

At the end of 2024, total CO2 emissions for Tipperary County Council were 32.3% below the 2016-2018 baseline. Based on the 2024 Gap-to-Target figure, Tipperary County Council must save an additional 3,282,164 kgCO2 in the next 5 years to reach the 2030 target of 2,883,094 kgCO2. To achieve this target, total CO2 emissions must be reduced by 53.2%, from the 2024 level.

Notably, these figures include electrical emissions, which are influenced by both the ongoing decarbonisation of the grid and by Tipperary County Council’s operational efficiencies. For Tipperary County Council, the key challenging area for emissions reduction is fossil fuels. These fuels are mainly used in transport and fleet and thermal/heating across facilities.

In 2024, it was also found that fossil fuel CO2 was 15.1% below the 2016-2018

baseline. An additional fossil fuel CO2 saving of 1,217,107 kgCO2, or 42.3% reduction from 2024 levels, is required to achieve to 2030 targets.

The 2030 targets are challenging and fast approaching, however, Tipperary County Council have made good progress to date and have identified a solid pathway that has delivered staffing and support and a strong governance structure to achieve these targets, and as a result are making active progress across both facilities and fleet. Critically, awareness of the need for emissions reductions and energy efficiency obligations has increased across staff and among Tipperary County Council elected members through the work of the Climate Action Steering Group and the Decarbonisation Advisory Group.

The pathways and plans for emissions reduction for facilities and fleet are outlined below in Section 6.2 and 6.3.

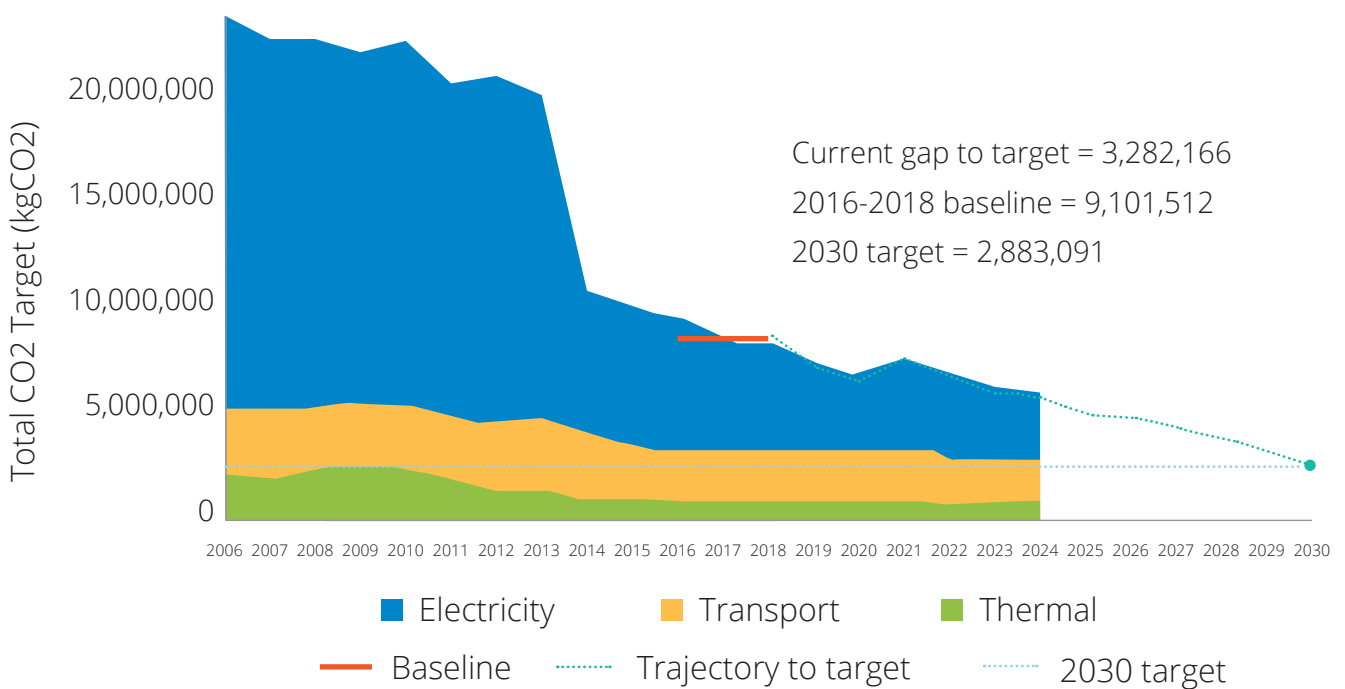


Figure 22: Tipperary County Council Total CO2 Emissions Target

6.2 Decarbonising Our Facilities

Leading the South East Regional Energy Unit

Tipperary County Council is the lead authority in the South East Regional Energy Unit (SEREU), comprising the counties of Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford. The SEREU guides the local authorities through the SEAI 'Pathfinder Programme', this funding program will ultimately deliver 50% of the funding required for building retrofitting.

Each local authority has identified their significant energy users (facilities and buildings), and has put plans in place to retrofit these to improve energy efficiency and to support the use of sustainable energy sources. In January 2025, the SEREU signed the new SEAI Pathfinder Programme Funding Agreement for the region, demonstrating its commitment to delivering its 2030 decarbonisation and energy efficiency targets.

The SEREU activities are focused on building decarbonisation and building energy efficiency. The aim is 100% decarbonisation of buildings where technically and economically viable and minimum BER "B" rating from an energy efficiency perspective. As part of the signed Funding Agreement, 40 buildings have been selected across the region. These are the most significant energy

users and most cost-effective buildings to decarbonise from a €/CO2T KPI. The buildings are made up of leisure centres, civic offices, theatre/cultural venues and machinery yards.

Further information may be found at [Pathfinder Programme | Non-Domestic Public Sector Building Retrofit | SEAI](#)

Property Management Unit and Building Selection

The new Property Management Unit based in the Corporate Affairs Department is tasked with delivering Tipperary County Council's retrofit programme (LACAP Action 30). In 2025, a multi-supplier framework of design project managers and integrated design teams was awarded and this will underpin the project between 2025 and 2030.

Nine Tipperary County Council buildings have been identified for retrofitting under the Pathfinder programme, and their retrofitting will enable the Council to achieve its emissions reductions and energy efficiency targets with respect to facilities. The upgrade of these buildings will also significantly increase the quality and comfort of these facilities, for staff and customers. The total cost is expected to be approximately €11m with 50% of this cost to be provided from the SEAI through the Pathfinder Programme.

Building / Facility		Building Description
1	Clonmel Civic Offices, Clonmel	Civic Offices
2	Nenagh Civic Offices, Nenagh	Civic Offices
3	The Source Library, Thurles	Arts Centre/Library
4	Clonmel Leisure and Clonmel Museum	Leisure Centre and Museum
5	Sean Treacy Memorial Swimming Pool, Tipperary Town	Leisure Centre
6	Nenagh Leisure Centre, Nenagh	Leisure Centre
7	Clonmel Fire Station, Clonmel	Fire Station
8	Nenagh Fire Station, Nenagh	Fire Station
9	Carrigeen Machinery Yard, Clonmel	Machinery yard

Table 4: *Tipperary County Council buildings earmarked for energy retrofit*



The TEA has been formally appointed to work alongside the design consultants in the role of Energy Efficiency Design Facilitators, ensuring projects achieve the highest possible standards in energy performance and compliance with SEAI requirements. In November 2025, the Pathfinder Programme officially commenced in Tipperary with the signing of contracts for the design of energy retrofit works for Clonmel Civic Offices.

Figure 23: *Signing of design contracts for Clonmel Civic Offices, Social Media Post (Nov 25)*

6.3 Decarbonising Our Fleet

Action 31 of the LACAP requires the Council, across its Fleet and Transport Management operations to achieve a 51% reduction in non-electrical transport GHG emissions by 2030. This is a significant challenge as the Council operates over 290 vehicles of many types, ranging from lawnmowers, small cars and vans to large

heavy vehicles such as road gritters and lorries, across a wide range of categories providing services across a range of areas. However, a dedicated Fleet Manager based in the Roads Department and working closely with the Decarbonisation Advisory Group has provided significant support in decarbonising fleet operations.

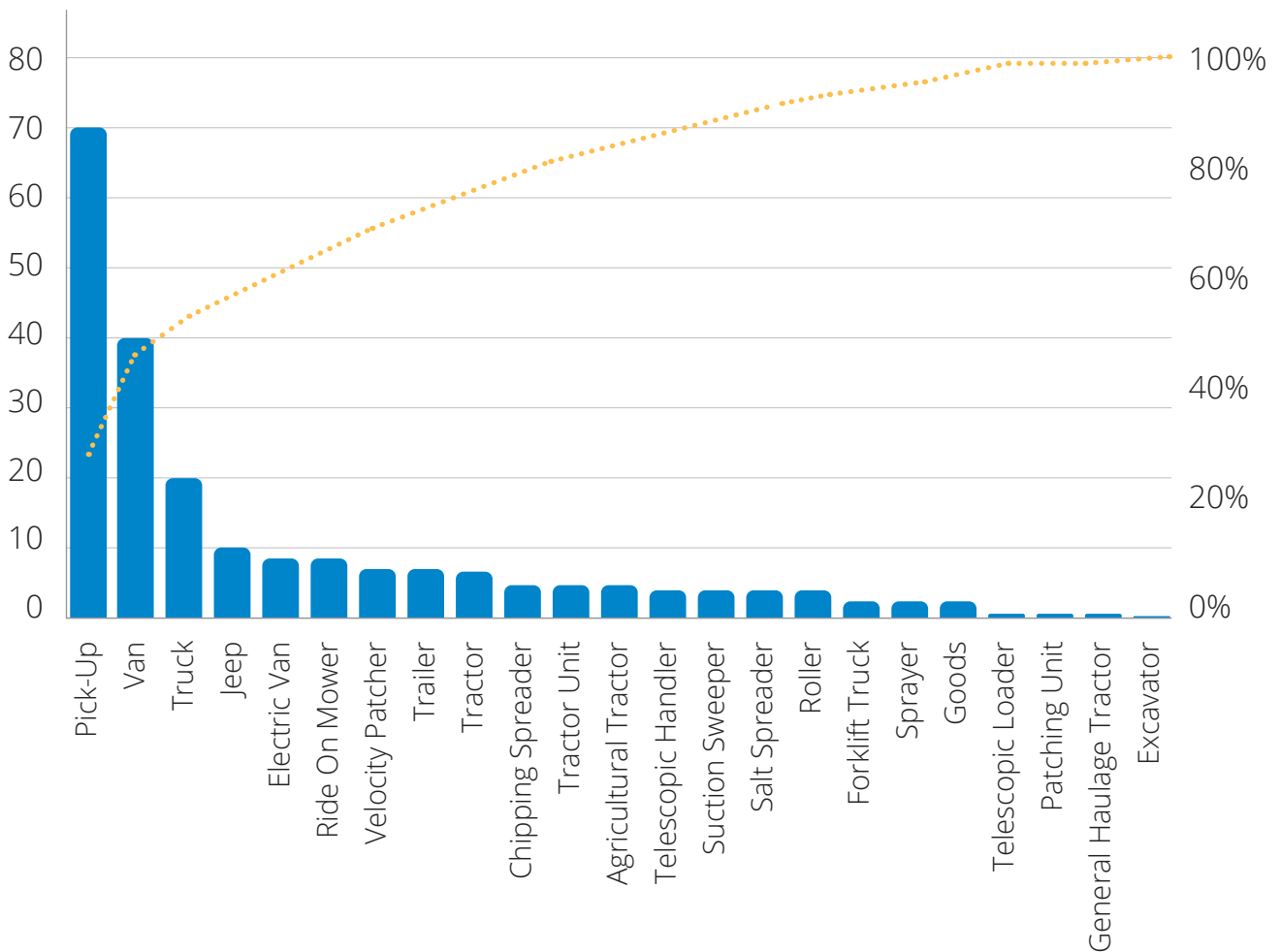


Figure 24: List of County Council vehicle types by numbers

2024 Vs 2025 (Jan-Oct)

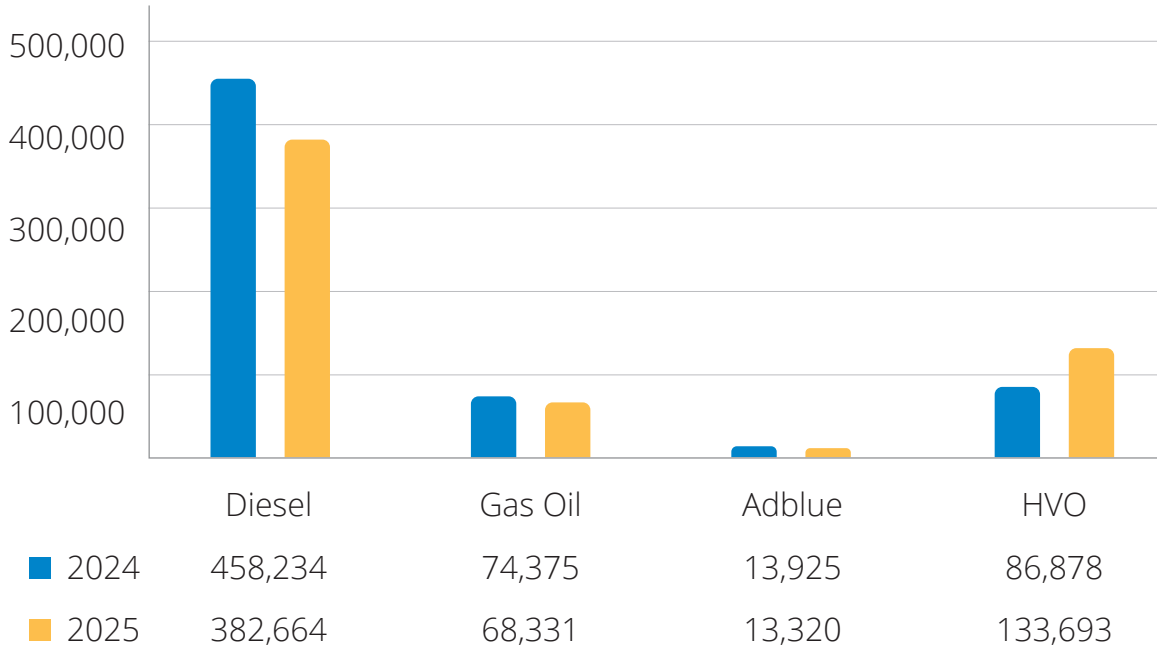


Figure 25: Change in Fuel usage and fuel types from 2024 to 2025

Up to October 2025, a total of 1291 tonnes of CO2 was produced by Tipperary County Council’s fleet. This is 114% of the target of GHG carbon emissions (based on a 2016-2018 baseline). However, there is now a dedicated fleet decarbonisation plan to move to EVs and low-emission fuels, and in 2025 there was a reduction in fuel use year to date compared to 2024. Notably, there has been a reduction in fossil fuel usage over the period January to October 2025.

There are now nine Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the fleet. As part of the capital program over the next three years, and as diesel vehicles come to the end of their life, it is planned to increase this number to at least twenty-five EV’s.



Figure 26: EV powered vehicle on fleet



Figure 27: EV Powered Fuel sweeper on fleet

At the moment there is no suitable electrically powered alternative to diesel for the larger and heavier vehicles such as gritters and tractors. 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. The benefits of using HVO is up to a 90% reduction in GHG emissions. As a rural authority, EV's are not a viable solution for many of the Council's applications, however, the fuel distribution network gives the opportunity to move much of the fleet to HVO and HVO refilling is now available at many of the Council depots, thus enabling this low-carbon fuel to be readily accessed and used by the fleet.

In summary, with better planning, increased monitoring of fuel use, replacement of older vehicles in the fleet with low-carbon vehicles, and the optimisation of road works programme, in 2025, there was a notable reduction in fuel use compared to 2024. This is an environmental and an economic benefit to the organisation.

Measures implemented are improving efficiency and reducing emissions, but additional measures, including significant capital investment, will be required over the next few years to ensure that the fleet reaches its 2030 targets for GHG emissions reductions. Key to these are:

- ▶ Review of driver behaviour. Continue to monitor excess idling and report/educate the organisation on the environmental and the economic impacts.
- ▶ Eco driver training – further reduction of 5% to 8% in CO2 can be achieved through driver training.
- ▶ Continue to optimise road works programs.
- ▶ Continue review of fleet to ensure vehicles are being best optimised.
- ▶ Continue to explore the acquisition of more carbon efficient large vehicles – EVs.
- ▶ Consider use of emerging technologies and materials for example, Biomethane.
- ▶ Ensure combustible engine vehicles in all tenders are HVO compatible.

7

Staff Awareness and Training



7. Staff Awareness and Training

7.1 'Reduce your Use' Staff Awareness Campaign

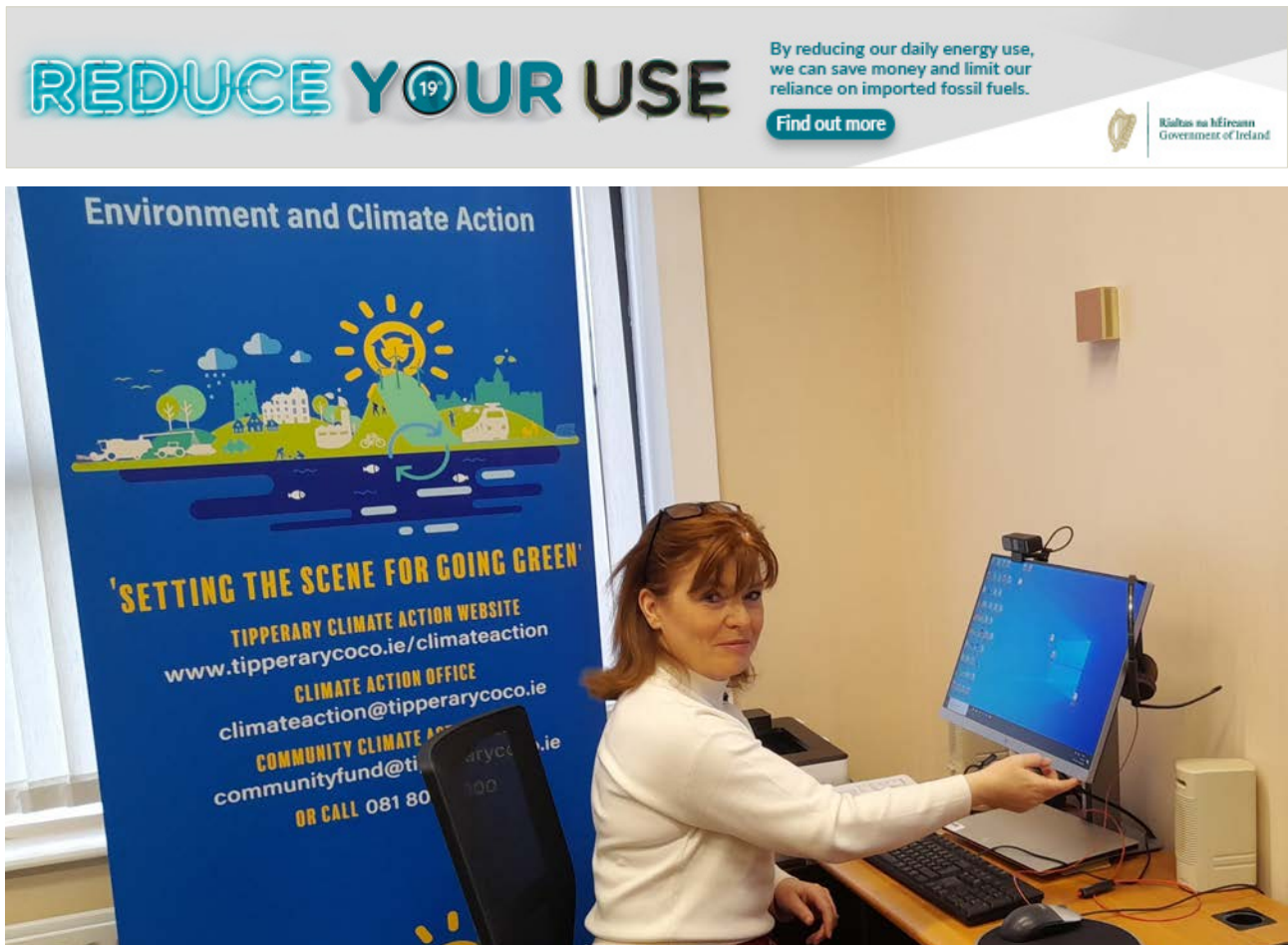


Figure 28: Sinead Carr, Chief Executive actively promoting the Reduce Your Use Campaign.

The Climate Action Officer role is dedicated to working with the staff of the Council to encourage and enable them to reduce their energy use both in the office and at home. As part of this, the Council is participating in the SEAI 'Reduce Your Use' engagement programme (LACAP Action 15). This programme is designed to encourage staff to think about their energy use and make positive changes to reduce waste and energy consumption.

Such changes include turning off lights and personal electronic equipment when not in use, reducing heat waste by only using heating when needed, recycling and better waste management.

The 2025 campaign in particular targeted assets such as personal computer monitors, office lights and other plug in equipment with the message "Please Switch Off When Not in Use".



Figure 29: Branded 'Please Switch Off When Not in Use' Sticker

Dedicated awareness started in February 2025 with staff email reminders with the message to switch off when not in use. Over the next two months weekly staff emails issued encouraging staff to turn off equipment and ending with a message from the Chief Executive:

"Tipperary County Council is committed to leading on climate action. The Council will invest in our fleet and buildings to make them more efficient, but all staff can contribute in some small way to this climate challenge by turning off their monitors each evening"

7.2 Climate Action Awareness as part of Induction of new staff

In 2025, climate induction training for new staff was delivered through the Human Resources new staff induction programme (LACAP Action 16). Over the year, representatives from the CAO presented at three induction sessions, two in Nenagh and one in Clonmel. The CAO provided reusable water bottles and coffee cups to promote circular economy and discourage the use of single use plastics. The objective of the climate action induction programme is to inform new staff of the Council's commitment to climate action, the delivery of action through the LACAP and the 'Reduce your Use' behavioural change campaign.



Figure 30: Eamon Lonergan Director, Environment and Climate Action welcoming new staff to Tipperary County Council in Nenagh, March 2025

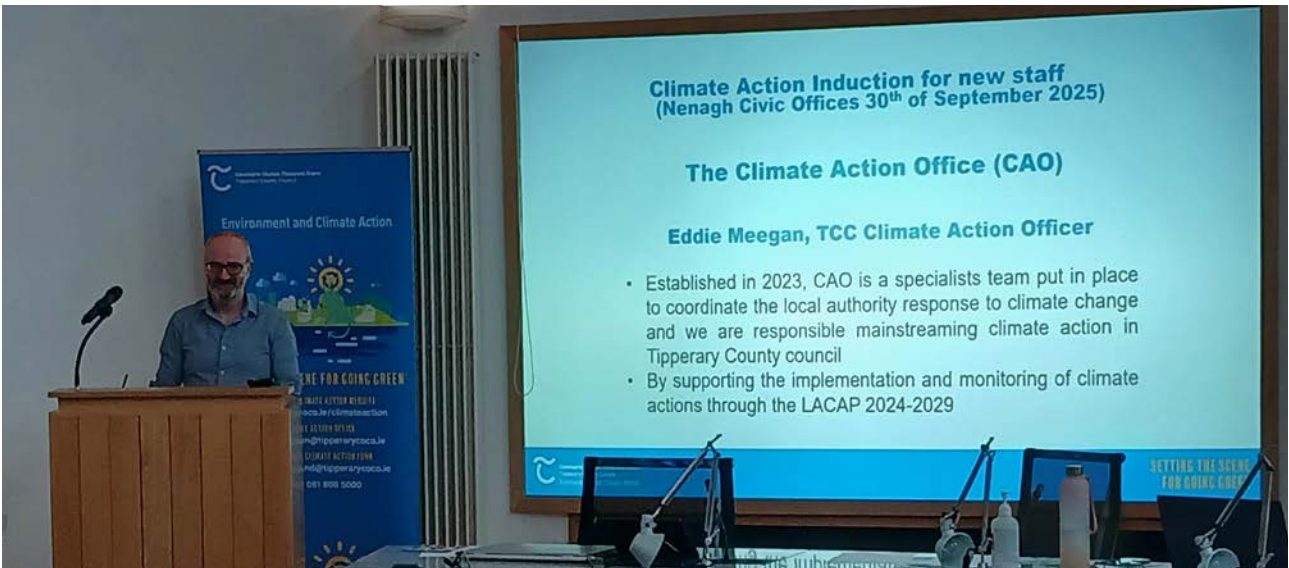


Figure 31: Eddie Meegan Climate Action Officer presenting to new staff September 2025

7.3 Climate Action Training programmes

The Environment and Climate Action and Human Resources Departments coordinate the local implementation of the CARO Climate Action Training Programme, delivered by the Local Authority Services National Training Group. The training is targeted at local authority indoor and outdoor staff as well as Elected Members (LACAP Action 14 elected members), (LACAP Action 31 Training) and (LACAP Action 58 NBS). The majority of the training is delivered online, with sessions being about 1.5 hours long.

It is heartening to note that participation in climate action training has been good with 270 logged attendance at online sessions over 2025. The training covered 6 themes and there have been over 15 training sessions held over 2025 across the following areas.

1. **Championing Leadership:** targeted at senior staff and elected members to drive effective change.
2. **Raising Awareness:** for all staff to raise awareness of the local authority's role in leading climate action at a local level
3. **Building Capacity:** targeted at staff on climate action teams who are delivering climate action through their day to day work.
4. **Actioning Policy:** targeted at staff (such as planners, transport engineers, biodiversity officers) who through their role need to translate policy and embed climate action.
5. **Delivering Action:** targeted at outdoor workers to implement practical climate action measures
6. **Empowering Change:** targeted at staff who work closely with communities to empower them promote behavioural change and positive climate action.

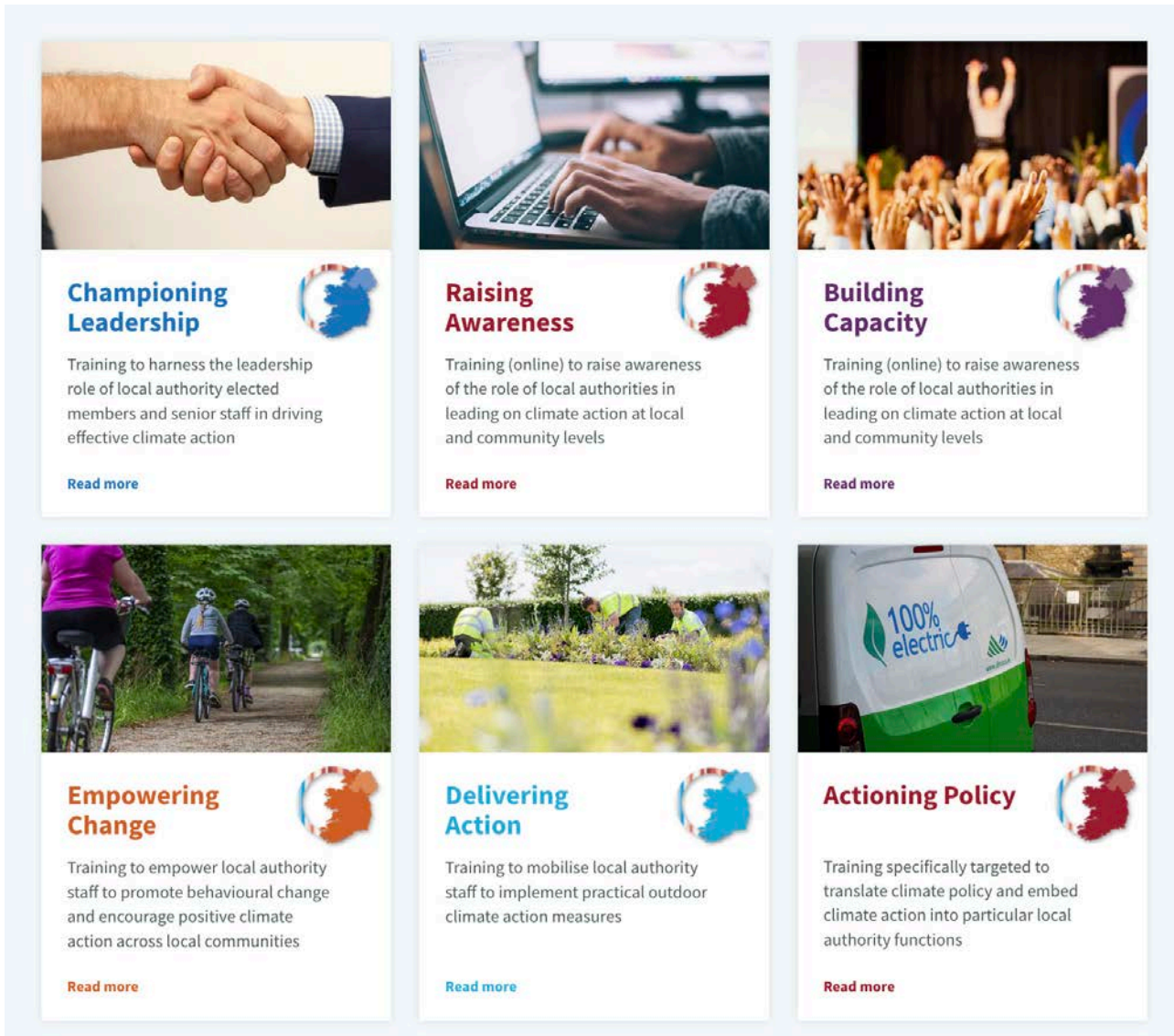


Figure 32: Infographic of the CARO Training Programme Website

7.4 Outreach to Council Service Areas

An important role of the CAO is to create an awareness of climate action opportunities for Council services areas and to mainstream positive action across services and functions.

The CAO contributed to a number of Tipperary County Council newsletters throughout the year such as the

'TippTimes', 'TippTogether' and the Environment and Climate Action Health and Safety Newsletter. The CAO also provide advice to sections on mainstreaming climate actions such as the "Greening your LEADER Project Guide" and 'Climate Action Information sheets' for the Community Section.



Figure 33: Samples of outreach newsletters and leaflets

Acknowledging good practice and leadership across the whole organisation

It is a priority of the CAO and the CASG to acknowledge good practice and leadership by staff across the organisation. The CAT comprises of senior staff and across all Council Departments and the Municipal Districts, and is a formal part of the governance for climate action. It is vital to the delivery of organisational climate action, and for learning and monitoring. The CAT meets three times a year and in November 2025, the last meeting of the CAT took the form of a Climate Action EXPO event, where staff members showcased their good work and climate action innovations over the year over 15 excellent presentations.



Figure 34: Photo from the Climate Action Team (CAT) EXPO event November 2025

8

Climate Action through Service Delivery



8. Climate Action through Service Delivery

Climate action reaches across all Council services and functions. In this section, LACAP action delivery is demonstrated through ‘case studies’ or examples of where the Council is delivering climate action through its day to day service delivery. A non-exhaustive list of 20 Case Studies are outlined here.

8.1 Partnership with External Facing Organisations

Action 18 of the LACAP requires Tipperary County Council to take a leading role in an outward facing committee of stakeholders each focused on the delivery of Climate Action through their own programmes. In delivering this action, the Council administers and allocates a small annual budget to enable collaboration, partnership and shared learning in the form of scheduled meetings for the key Tipperary based organisations each with their own sustainability and climate action role and remit.



‘SustainableTipp’ consists of approximately 15 not-for profit and community/business facing organisations based in Tipperary delivering climate action through their services and functions. The group was first established in 2016 after Tipperary County Council joined the EU Covenant of Mayors with the objective to deliver climate actions and related activities through their own annual service delivery programmes (to the public, businesses, farmers etc) across various sectors. SustainableTipp is aligned with, and supports, delivery of the UN SDGs.



Figure 35: Clare Lee Climate Action Coordinator (on right) at EIRGRID event in Cashel



Figure 36: TUS April 2025, in Thurles

The list of participating organisations is set out here:

- ▶ Tipperary County Council (various relevant sections)
- ▶ Tipperary Energy Agency
- ▶ Technological University of the Shannon
- ▶ Local Enterprise Office
- ▶ South Tipperary Development Office
- ▶ North Tipperary development Office
- ▶ Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (Tipperary mentor)
- ▶ Teagasc (Local office)
- ▶ Public Participation Network
- ▶ Local Community and Development Committee (Cahir)
- ▶ Local Link
- ▶ Ecovision Energy Communities Co-Op
- ▶ Tipperary Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Tipperary Education and Training Board
- ▶ Education for Sustainable Development



Figure 37: SustainableTipp meeting

8.2 Climate Action Week October 2025

An Taisce held their annual Climate Action Week 2025 from 13th to 19th October with events held across the country. The objective of the week is to help create climate literate communities through creative communications and engaging actions, and building resilience with people.

In support of Climate Action Week 2025, Tipperary County Council offered a ‘Community Climate Action Small Events Fund’ with the support of the PPN, to help community groups host community climate action events in the county. The Council was delighted to provide small grants to the value of €300 to 28 community events, as well as a larger

grant to the Tipperary PPN. The fund is in line with the objectives of the LACAP Action 67 and is in line with the themes of the Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029.

The CAO engaged with all the community groups involved as they rolled out their events. Each group promoted their own event and set the dates, times and venues themselves. A diverse range of activities were delivered, from sustainability educational workshops to biodiversity walks and circular bioeconomy discussions.

The events took place across County Tipperary during, or in the period leading up to National Climate Action Week.



Figure 38: Fethard Tidy Towns

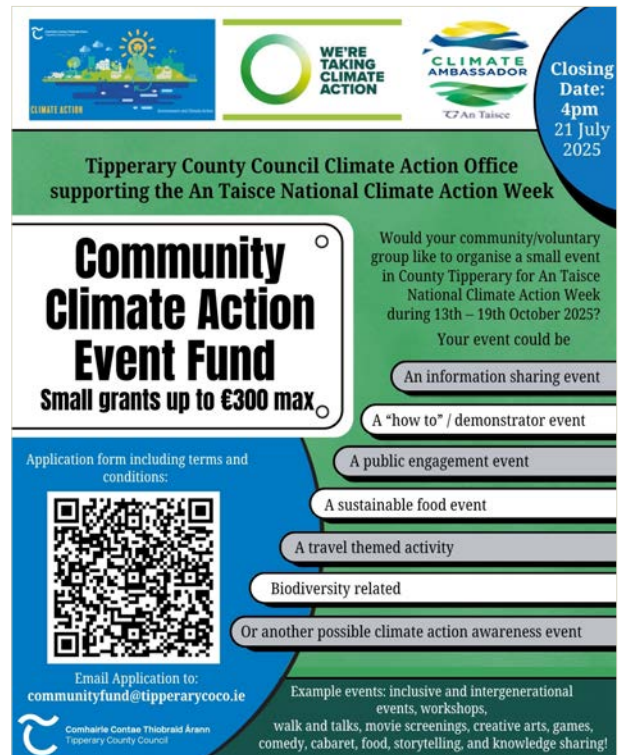


Figure 39: Flyer for Community Climate Action Small Event Fund

8.3 Mattress Recycling in Tipperary

Tipperary County Council is a leading local authority in Ireland for supporting the Circular Economy. Tipperary County Council’s Environment and Climate Action Section collect used mattresses at the 5 civic amenity sites in Tipperary. These bulky items are being upcycled by a Longford based company called Cirtex, diverting them from landfill and incineration. This circular business model transforms used mattresses into upcycled components for the mattress, furniture and building insulation sectors.

This mattress recycling programme is a collaboration between Cirtex and Tipperary County Council who supply the raw material in the form of mattresses, and proves that smart and collaborative business models can be developed that also have a positive environmental impact.

Through out the year old mattresses from domestic households can be brought to any of the 5 civic amenity sites in Tipperary where they will be stored and delivered for upcycling throughout the year. The Council also holds an annual ‘Mattress Amnesty’ each year

whereby mattresses can be deposited free of charge. In July 2025, the Council held its annual ‘Mattress Amnesty’ across its 5 Civic Amenity Sites enabling the collection of 1075 mattresses from the general public. See Table 5 below for the breakdown of mattress numbers collected at the sites.

Civic Amenity Site	Number of Mattresses collected
Nenagh	165
Roscrea	245
Waller’s Lot, Cashel	284
Donohill	146
Carrigeen, Clonmel	235

Table 5: *Mattresses collected in each civic amenity centre during the amnesty 2025*

For further information on recycling contact the Environment and Climate Action Section on 0818 06 5000, visit the website [Environment | Tipperary County Council](https://www.tipperarycounty.ie/Environment) or follow Tipperary County Council on social media for updates.



Figure 40: *Mattresses waiting to be recycled*



Figure 41: *Pat Walsh, Manager of Civic Amenity Sites Tipperary County Council, Minister of State with responsibility for the Circular Economy Ossian Smyth and representatives from Cirtex, Co. Longford*

8.4 Climate Action and Creativity

In 2025, the Tipperary County Council Arts Department, with support from the Arts Council of Ireland, funded an arts residency located in the Tipperary DZ. Artists Aoife Barrett and Aideen Quirke collaborated with Glengoole National School on a project focused on sustainability and environmental awareness, encouraging a reimagining of traditional art-making practices and materials in their locality (LACAP Action 65 Organise capacity building training).

The initiative embraced an eco-conscious approach, inviting students to engage with their local surroundings through sensory exploration and the collection of natural materials. By challenging

conventional ways of making and consuming, the project aimed to cultivate ecological awareness, inspire creative expression, and empower students to become environmentally conscious as future leaders of their communities.

The students were engaged in object making, performance, installation, film and photography. The children were also introduced to textiles, hand sewing (and machine sewing under supervision), fabric printing, all while repurposing old materials into new forms. With a child-led approach, the students were encouraged to ask questions, experiment, create and share knowledge.



Figure 42: Artist Aoife Barrett working with students from Glengoole NS



Figure 43: Students exploring the natural surroundings of the school and creating new artwork at Glengoole NS

8.5 Climate Action and Local Enterprise



Located within the Economic, Community and Rural Development Department, the Tipperary Local Enterprise Office (LEO) is an initiative of the National Action Plan for Jobs and is committed to delivering an enhanced and more integrated support service for the micro and small business sector in Ireland. LEO Tipperary offers a range of complementary supports to potential entrepreneurs and existing businesses.

The aim of the 'Green for Business' programme is to assist businesses in lowering their carbon footprint, reducing costs and improving the environmental profile of the business in the marketplace.

The programme is designed to allow eligible companies to avail of free technical and/or advisory supports from a "green" consultant across a broad range of activities from resource efficiency to understanding their carbon footprint to implementing an environmental management system (LACAP Action 70). During 2025, 40 local businesses participated.

Tipperary businesses involved in sectors such as engineering, food manufacturing, retail, hospitality, local services and so on have availed of the programme.

Following on from completion of a 'Green for Business' report, many companies continue their sustainable journey by applying for the 'Energy Efficiency Grant', to support the purchase of capital items and the investment in technologies to further reduce their energy costs. Energy efficiency grants, can be used for the upgrading of white goods, lighting, heating, food and water, management systems and equipment related to their business operations. In 2025, 22 energy efficiency grants were provided to local businesses.

During Local Enterprise Week in March, 2025 the LEO held a number of public events across Tipperary for small to medium enterprises in Tipperary to help them participate in energy efficiency measures.

LEO Tipperary is very supportive of the National Climate Action Plan and driving the decarbonisation journey for small businesses. To this end LEO Tipperary collaborates with Tipperary County Council on climate action initiatives.

Further information is available from the [Local Enterprise Office - Tipperary](https://www.localenterpriseoffice-tipperary.ie)





8.6 Libraries supporting Local Climate Action and Learning

The Tipperary County Council Library Department operates 12 libraries across Tipperary and these are key in supporting community climate action and learning, and by illustrating how individuals and communities can do their bit to be more sustainable.

In 2025, Clonmel library hosted information evenings and workshops about growing vegetables at home and in the community, in conjunction with the Literacy and Food Education Programme (LEAF)³ supported by the Grow Your Own Network in Waterford (LACAP Action

65). The library presented LEAF seed packs to Clonmel Tidy Towns at the “grow it forward” Outreach Garden on the grounds of Old Saint Mary’s church. The garden provides a social space for tidy towns members. The fresh produce from the garden goes to the Clonmel soup kitchen.

Clonmel Library hosted a cookery demonstration where self-grown vegetables were used. Some of the dishes prepared on the night were bean salad, smashed pea dip and a vegetable crisp salad.



Figure 44: Paul Devane, Clonmel Library presenting seed packs to Kieran Berry of TÚS and Geraldine McGrath of Clonmel Tidy Towns at their outreach garden in old St Mary’s Clonmel, March 2025

³ [GIY Community Growing Guide 2025](#)



Figure 45: Sinéad Delahunty from 'Delalicious' with members of the public, at Cookery Demo March 2025 in Clonmel

Carrick-on-Suir Library supported the establishment of a community garden on its site. The garden is managed by the "Carrick On Suir Library Community Garden" group. The group comprises of members of the Men's Shed, Lions Club, Suir Valley Drug Initiative Programme and other volunteers. A greenhouse was donated from the Suir Valley Drug Initiative Programme and the Men's Shed built raised beds. The Carrick-on-Suir Lions Club supported the purchase of seeds, nets and other gardening equipment. In an effort to reduce the impact on the environment rainwater is collected using water butts, this water is used to water plants. Excess vegetation is composted to create natural fertiliser. The group grow a wide range of vegetables such as tomatoes, cabbage, peppers, cucumber, strawberries, rhubarb, various types of lettuce, pumpkin squash, runner beans and various herbs. There are also apple trees and a wild flower area.

Further information is available from Branches – [Tipperary County Council Library Service](#)



Figure 46: Members of the Carrick on Suir Community Garden Group at the Tree of Hope

8.7 Active Travel

The Tipperary County Council 'Active Travel' Department delivers an annual capital works programme that contributes to sustainable, healthy and safe ways to travel for everyday purposes like going to school or work in the form of new walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure (LACAP Action 95 and 97). Walking, cycling and using the bus are critical ways to reduce the production of fossil fuels by excessive use of private cars. Investment in active travel infrastructure aligns with Ireland's carbon reduction targets and promotes public health and quality of life.

The Active Travel Programme is funded through from the National Transport Authority (NTA) walking and cycling infrastructure programme. Tipperary County Council received an allocation in 2025 of €4 million, and an additional funding amount of €500,000 from the 'Bus Stop Enhancement Programme'.

Active Travel Projects include, cycleways, footpaths, pedestrian crossings and safe routes to schools ensuring safe walking and cycling routes for our local communities. Furthermore, the Council works with the NTA on the rollout of the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme. With the funding received in 2025, the Tipperary County Council Active Travel Team constructed enhanced bus stop infrastructure in local communities and promoted public transport use across the county.



Figure 47: Footpath improvement in Emly



Figure 48: New footpath linking housing areas to the town centre at Cashel Road Clonmel



Figure 49: Shared cycling and walking path Lisbunny Nenagh

8.8 Emergency Response to Extreme Weather Events

The Tipperary Climate Change Risk Assessment 2023⁴ predicts that the top 5 most frequent expected climate hazards are severe windstorms, extreme precipitation, pluvial flooding, above average surface temperatures and above average precipitation. For the emergency response services of the Council, extreme weather events may result in increased demand for services, and during 2025 extreme weather events contributed to increased incidents, costs and demand for emergency services.

Tipperary County Council's 'Severe Weather Event Response Plan 2025' was revised and updated by the Roads Section of Tipperary County Council in November 2025 (LACAP Action 26). Notably, this is



Figure 50: *Tipperary County Council Emergency staff at work after a severe weather event*

the first time that the Tipperary Severe Weather Event Response Plan has included the Flooding Response Plans.

The Tipperary County Council Severe Weather Event Response Plan 2025 was produced in accordance with the national Major Emergency Management⁵ frameworks. The Local Authorities, Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána are required to have regional Major Emergency Management Plans in place. The Tipperary County Council Severe Weather Event Response Plan, therefore is a sub plan of the Major Emergency Management Plan.

The objectives of the Severe Weather Event Response Plan are to;

1. Ensure the Local Authority is prepared and can respond to a severe weather event and its aftermath.
2. Ensure adequate equipment, materials and manpower are available.
3. Assign responsibility to individuals and agencies.
4. Identify key Local Authority and 3rd party personnel.
5. Set out a Communication Plan for dealing with media, public queries and ensuring up to date information is available at all times both internally and externally.

⁴ [Tipperary Co Council Climate Change Risk Assessment 2023](#)

⁵ [A framework for major emergency management](#)

Some of the duties of Tipperary County Council are to;

- ▶ Reduce the effect of severe weather events on communities and businesses.
- ▶ Protect persons and properties at risk.
- ▶ Establish temporary rest centres for evacuees.
- ▶ Communicate information on the event to communities and businesses.

The response to severe weather events is coordinated by the Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT), a sub group of the Major Emergency Management structure. It coordinates the Council’s operational response to severe weather events, ensuring preparedness, mobilisation, communication and

recovery. The SWAT was convened 12 times in 2025, most of these meetings were in January to prepare for, respond to and manage the recovery from a significant Snow-Ice event and Wind events (status orange and yellow) that occurred at that time.

Public Communication and Severe Weather Events

Tipperary County Council actively maintains social media contact with the public to help inform them of services and events. The Tipperary Fire and Rescue service regularly posts updates to help keep communities and businesses informed and protected.

For more details see [Emergency Services | Tipperary County Council](#)



Figure 51: Flood Defences erected along the Quays in Clonmel in response to flood risk

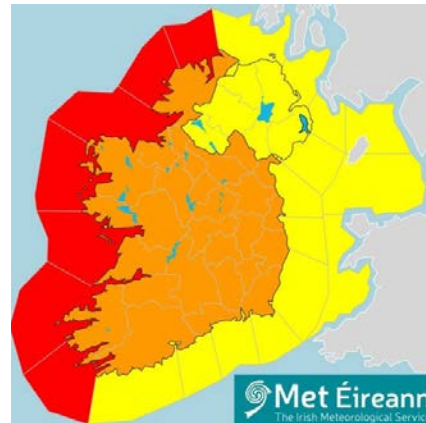


Figure 52: Social Media post by Tipperary Fire and Rescue Services

Storm	Date	Total	Activity
Eowyn	24-01-25	13	Trees down, damage to communication and energy network
Amy	03-10-25	17	Trees down, damage to communication and energy network
Claudia	14-11-25	9	Trees down, damage to communication and energy network

Table 6: Tipperary County Council Fire and Emergency Call out data for 2025

8.9 Nature-Based Solutions

Nature-based solutions (NBS) are alternatives to hard engineering that help to reduce GHG emissions, increase carbon sequestration, support biodiversity and enhance societal, economic and environmental resilience to climate change. The design and implementation of nature-based solutions is a key approach to combat climate challenges while simultaneously delivering co-benefits for human well-being, society, the economy, and biodiversity.

Action 58 of the LACAP requires the Council to

'develop and implement a Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and integrated rainwater management protocol for both Council and private sector projects, and to prioritise NBS in line with national guidance parameters.'

The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 -2028 requires the implementation of water sensitive urban design as an integral part of the design of new developments to reduce the generation of storm water run-off, and to ensure that all storm water generated is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved storm water system.

The municipal and borough districts as part of their capital works programme have been active in installing a number of schemes in 2025 for example, Clonmel Borough District installed 3 rain gardens;

- ▶ 190m on the Cashel road as part of the TII Active Travel scheme.



Figure 53: Rain gardens installed on the Cashel Road Active Travel Scheme

- ▶ 4 rain gardens as part of the Gaelscoil safe routes to school in Irishtown, Clonmel
- ▶ 7 rain gardens retrofitted in the car park on Suir Island, Clonmel

Each of these enable the management of surface water on site using plants and soil rather than diverting grey water to costly and difficult to maintain hard engineering solutions off site.

Nenagh MD have constructed a wetland lagoon to treat surface water runoff from the N52 incorporating pollinator friendly wild flowers.

Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District are incorporating NBS sustainable urban drainage systems as part of the Activating Cahir Town Centre Regeneration Project. The solution being installed is

a GreenBlue Urban ArbroSystem that mimics natural soil conditions and water cycles, contributing to urban stormwater management by allowing water infiltration and storage within tree pits.

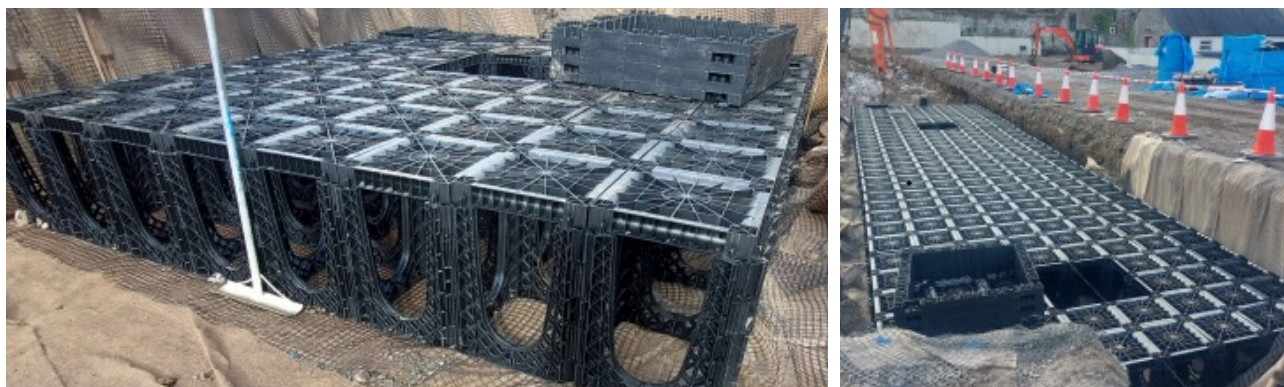


Figure 54: *The GreenBlue Urban ArbroSystem during its installation in Cahir*



Figure 55: *Rain Garden at Ormond Castle Park, Carrick on Suir*



Figure 56: *Bike Racks and Rain Garden at Ormond Castle Park, Carrick on Suir*

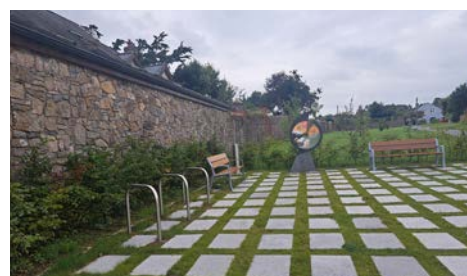


Figure 57: *Permeable surface to enable natural management of water at Ormond Castle Park, Carrick on Suir*

8.10 Supporting Biodiversity

The move towards NBS is also important in supporting and protecting our biodiversity, increasing resilience to climate change for example, increased flood events and by enabling carbon capture in vegetation and trees.



Examples of Council programmes and projects that support the ‘National Pollinator Plan’ and biodiversity in general can be seen throughout the county, for example, the new Tree Strategy 2024 – 2029 for Clonmel Borough provides a structured framework for managing and maintaining the urban trees within Clonmel Borough District. It ensures that the existing tree stock is cared for and managed effectively, sets goals for future tree planting and maintenance, and establishes clear guidelines for sustainable management practices. It also focuses on educating people around the value of trees and encouraging everybody to play a part in protecting and nurturing trees.

You can find this tree strategy on the Council website <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/environment/treemanagement/clonmel-tree-strategy-2024-2029>

Notably, in 2025, Thurles Municipal District in partnership with local community groups participated in the “100 Million Trees Project” by planting a mini urban forest off the Mill Road, Thurles on Friday, March the 21st 2025.

The project, sponsored by AIB, involved the planting of 5,500 native Irish trees on half an acre of council owned land enhancing biodiversity and creating a carbon sink. It is hoped this will encourage and inspire other local authorities and private landowners to plant trees on land that has little economic value and give something back to nature. Tipperary County Council is setting an example of what can be done, and encourage others to contact the 100 million trees project.



Figure 58: *Mature Trees in Clonmel*



Figure 59: 100 Million Trees Project Volunteers hard at work in Thurles



Figure 60: Area left wild for biodiversity - Ormond Castle Biodiversity Park

8.11 Climate Proofing our Capital Projects

The Council delivers capital works at a number of different scales. Significant capital projects are delivered under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage), and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) (Department of Rural and Community Development). Both of these funding streams have a requirement for Climate Action Measures to be integrated as part of the funding application process. This 'Climate Proofing' (LACAP Action 3) of capital development is the responsibility of all sections, and guidance on climate proofing is provided by the Planning Section and the 2040 Capital Projects team. In 2025, a 'Climate Proofing' checklist was incorporated as part of the 'Part 8 Planning Protocol' of the Council, thereby ensuring that all local authority-



Figure 61: *Templemore library in the old Town Hall*

led projects are climate proofed at planning stage.

The Council used this climate proofing methodology in the transformation of the old Templemore Town Hall into a state-of-the-art library and enterprise centre. The redeveloped building has;

- ▶ Upgraded all the windows to triple glazing achieving a U Value of 1.5W/m²k.
- ▶ 2 new EV Charging points installed in the car park adjacent to the Library with a supply of 50KW for fast charging.
- ▶ A heat pump air to water system with underground heating installed to heat the building throughout.
- ▶ Existing walls insulated with a calcium board to retain internal heat and to allow the building to breath.
- ▶ Exposed Internal roof insulated between rafters.
- ▶ Energy rating of A1 achieved.
- ▶ New solar panel bins installed in the public realm space.
- ▶ Extra urban trees and planters installed as part of the new urban landscaping measures.
- ▶ LED lighting installed internally.
- ▶ LED Lighting installed externally.

8.12 Capacity building for a Sustainable and Circular Bioeconomy

National Bioeconomy Campus and Tipperary County Council

Ireland's first national Bioeconomy Action Plan was published during Bioeconomy Ireland Week 2023. The 'Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025'⁶ includes 33 actions to accelerate support for the development of the bioeconomy. The plan has a high focus on bringing sustainable scientific practices, technologies and biobased innovation and solutions into use on farms and by biobased industries in Ireland.

Tipperary County Council, in its County Development Plan 2022-2028, sets out a pathway to support development of the bioeconomy, noting the strength of the county in the production of bio-based resources from its agriculture,

forestry and agri-food sectors. The Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF) is headquartered in the National Bioeconomy Campus based in Lisheen, Thurles on the former Lead/Zinc Mine site, where Tipperary County Council own 10 acres within the Campus and actively work with stakeholders in attracting funding and support for the bioeconomy.

It is planned, with EU Just Transition Funding and Government of Ireland funding, to develop a serviced landholding in public ownership within the Campus, facilitating the creation of jobs with a bioeconomy focus. These rural based sustainable jobs will be created by companies utilising the innovative technologies being developed within the adjoining pilot bioeconomy scale-



Figure 62: *Lisheen Masterplan site in Council ownership*

⁶ [Bioeconomy Policy](#)

up facility. This will bring much needed employment to the Lisheen area that has been severely impacted by the loss of peat and mine industries.

A design team was appointed in 2025 to prepare a masterplan for the development of research, scale-up, and commercialisation facilities in the bioeconomy sector at the Council owned portion of the National Bioeconomy Campus.

A Project Manager has also been appointed to act on behalf of Tipperary County Council in overseeing the delivery of this strategically significant project. The Design Team have engaged extensively with:

- ▶ Industry and commercial stakeholders
- ▶ Relevant government agencies
- ▶ Academic researchers and experts
- ▶ Operators of comparable facilities across Europe.

In parallel, the design team has commenced:

- ▶ A full suite of site surveys and environmental assessments
- ▶ Planning and policy research to inform the project's development brief
- ▶ Masterplan design options for the 10-acre site.

Bio-Scaleup

In addition to the Master Plan site, the Lisheen Bioeconomy Scale-Up Initiative (BioScaleUp) is a €5 million project led by Tipperary County Council, co-funded by the EU Just Transition Fund and the Government of Ireland. Launched in October 2024, the initiative aims to advance Ireland's circular bioeconomy by demonstrating innovative biotechnologies at the National Bioeconomy Campus.

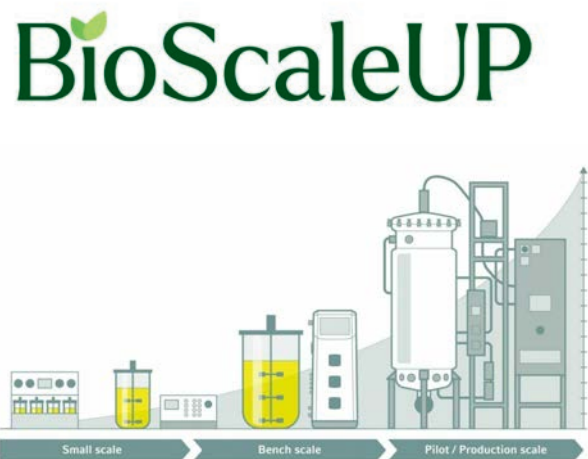


Figure 63: *Bio-Scale illustration from bench scale to production scale*

In 2025, equipment was purchased to allow the National Bioeconomy operate at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 7, facilitating pilot-scale demonstrations of biomanufacturing processes. It is expected that the facility will open in 2026.

8.13 Green Public Procurement

Action 84 of the LACAP requires the Council to

‘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’.

Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a process where public authorities seek to source goods, services or works with a reduced environmental impact. GPP is acknowledged as a vital policy lever in meeting environmental policy objectives. The implementation of GPP has an important role to play in delivering Ireland’s environmental

and wider sustainable development objectives. In April 2024, the government published [Buying Greener: Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027](#) to drive the implementation of green and circular procurement practices across the public sector.

In July of 2025, the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Sector Reform and Digitisation updated the GPP obligations (circular 17/2025). The Council Procurement Office reviewed and have plans to update procedures and develop staff training to facilitate the requirements of the circular. Also, in 2025, 15 Council staff attended “Practical Implementation of Green Public Procurement in Local Authorities” on line training delivered by the LASTNG in collaboration with the CARO.

8.14 Tourism and Sustainability

Tipperary County Council as a county with a green and natural reputation has built on opportunities to support sustainable, low-impact and resilient tourism. In 2025, Tipperary County Council funded up to €1.7 million to private and community enterprises based in the Carrick and Thurles Municipal Districts through the EU Just Transition Fund. One of the enterprises that received funding was Blueway Bike Hire to purchase electric and mobility friendly bikes to support the activity experience on the Suir Blueway.

Littleton Labyrinth Trail opened on June the 17th 2025. This is a 7.2km trail through the former Bord na Mona peat bog. The trail winds its way

through a peaceful rich bog ecosystem, inviting walkers and cyclists to immerse themselves in the tranquil landscape. The Council has commissioned media content to support the promotion of inclusive and sustainable rural based activity.

In July 2025, the Council through the EU JTF Tourism Activator, facilitated a community engagement and an information dissemination workshop targeted at tourist operators on the ‘Circular Economy in Tourism’ Project. This was part of a series of workshops to inform the preparation of a national roadmap for driving circularity in the tourism sector. The project is funded by the EPA Research and Programme 2021-2030.



Figure 64: Blueway Bike Hire Carrick-on-Suir, and drone footage of the on the Littleton Labyrinth Trail

8.15 The National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project

The National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) is a national program focused on upgrading public lighting to modern Light-Emitting Diode (LED) technology (LACAP Action 32). This initiative aims to improve energy efficiency, reduce costs, and cut GHG emissions from public lighting.

Tipperary County Council maintains approximately 19,000 public lights. As of September 2025, over 10,000 (over

55%) of these have been upgraded to LEDs. Clonmel Borough District have the highest percentage of LEDs with over 67% of the lights upgraded. It is expected that the PLEEP project will continue, with LED upgrades into 2026.

The percentage of lights upgraded by Municipal District and the percentage of lights upgraded per town are illustrated below.

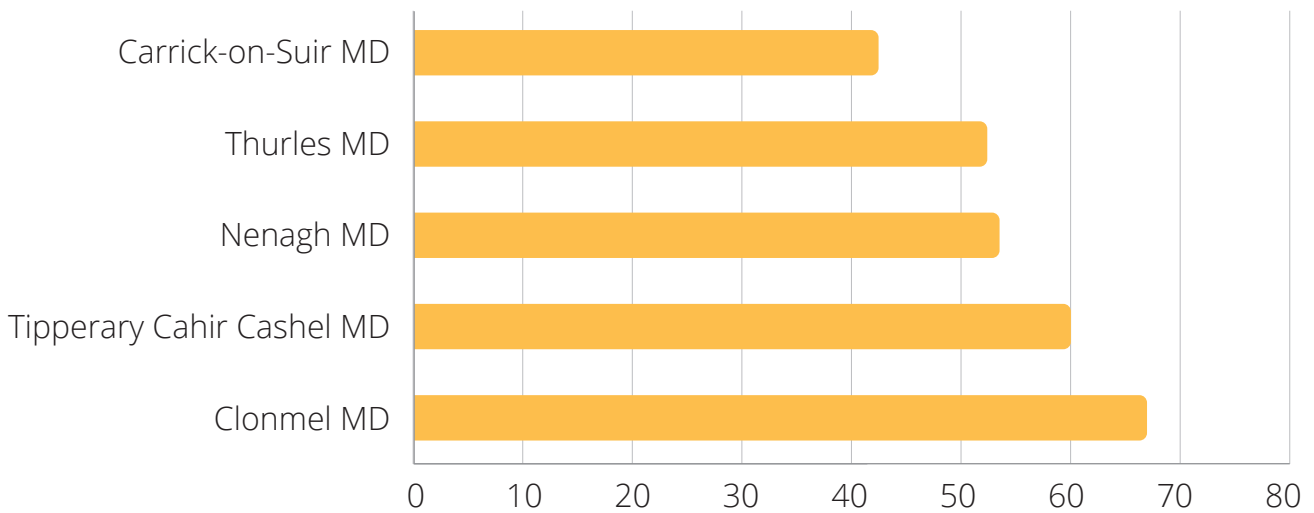


Figure 65: *Percentage of public lights upgraded to LEDs per District (Sept 2025)*

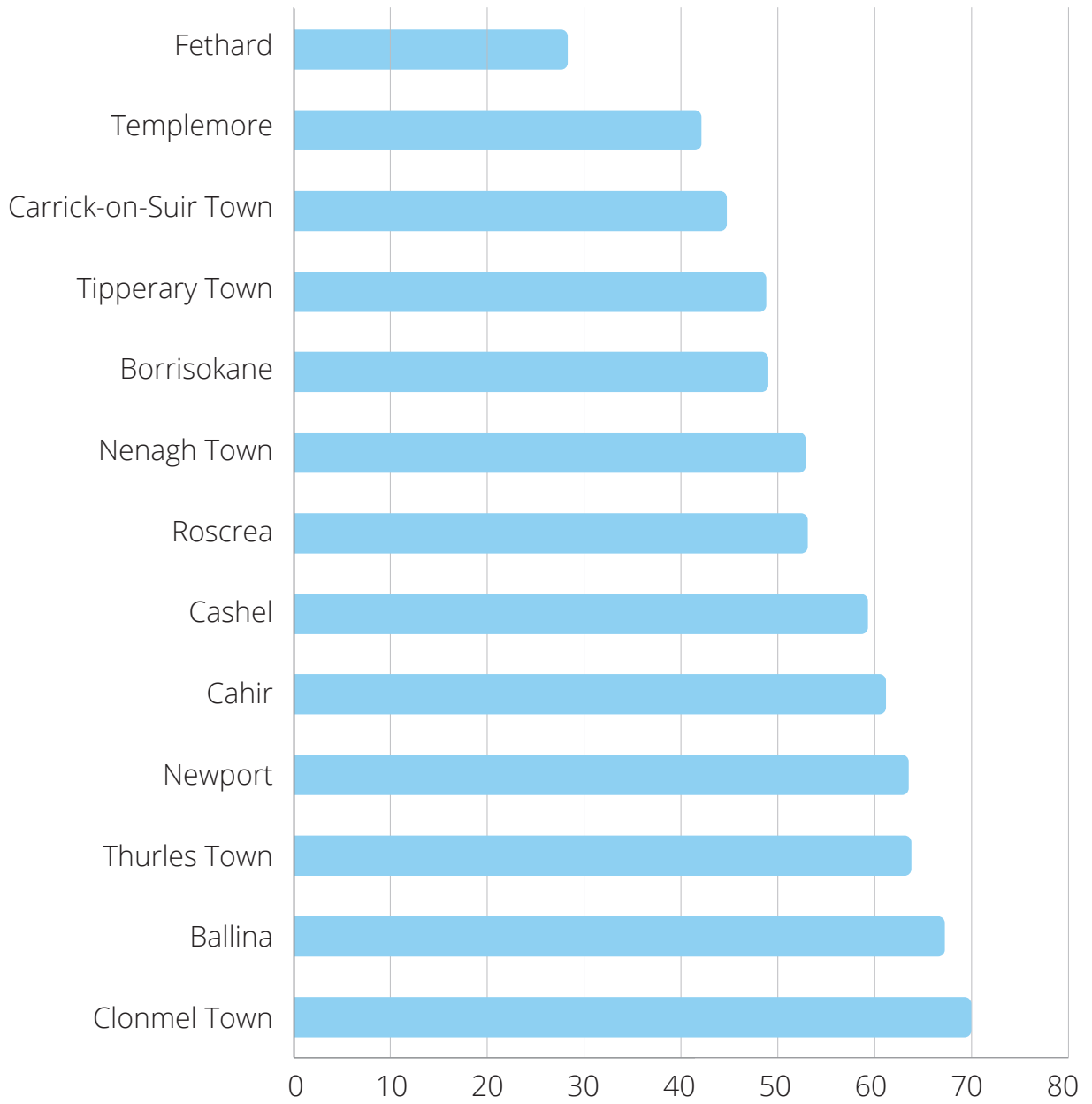
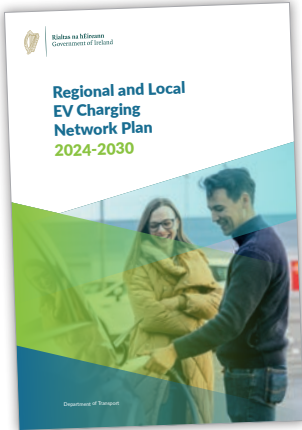


Figure 66: *Percentage of public lights upgraded to LEDs per Town (Sept 2025)*

8.16 Development of an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy



Having consideration to their leadership role in Climate Action, Tipperary County Council Roads Department have taken the regional lead in the development of a new

Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. Tipperary is the lead authority within Region 5 (South-East) along with the local authorities of Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford. This is in line with Action 34 of the LACAP.

The Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan 2024 -2030 (Department of Transport), was developed by Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEV), and sets targets and strategies for local authorities to drive EV infrastructure development at destination and neighbourhood locations, with government support. It aligns with both national and EU climate goals, helping to cut emissions and move towards a fully decarbonised transport sector by 2050.

A key provision of the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan 2024 -2030 is for the development of Regional EV Infrastructure strategies.

The objectives of this plan are to:

1. Support the delivery of well-defined local and regional plans for a resilient, self-sustaining, futureproofed network that minimises public funding supports and meets user needs.

2. In partnership with key stakeholders, support the coordinated and accelerated expansion of a destination and neighbourhood EV charging network that aligns with greater e-mobility policies.
3. Provide a pathway to deliver on national infrastructure targets in support of both AFIR (alternative fuels infrastructure regulations) requirements and Climate Action Plan objectives. The accelerated expansion of public destination and neighbourhood charging infrastructure will be led by local authorities with the support and in partnership with other public sector bodies, private sector groups and other stakeholders.

In December 2024, Arup were appointed as the consultant for the development of Region 5's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. Over 2025 significant progress was made, including public consultation and the Strategy is due for completion in 2026.

EV Charging Point Map

Tipperary County Council maintains a record of EV charging points in Tipperary on its website at [EV Charging Point Map | Tipperary County Council](#)



Figure 67: Extract from Tipperary County Council website

8.17 Our Schools and Climate Action

Green Schools Programme

The 'Green Schools' programme, coordinated by An Taisce and delivered through the local authorities, is Ireland's leading environmental education programme, empowering students and schools to take practical action on sustainability and climate action through themes like Litter & Waste, Energy, Water, Biodiversity, Travel and Global Citizenship.



Figure 68: Sisters of Charity Clonmel, at their Green Flag raising Ceremony

In 2025, 39 Tipperary Schools, with the support of the Council's Environment and Climate Action Section were awarded their Green Schools flags at the Green Schools award ceremony in Hotel Kilkenny on 13th May. There were 2 Regional awards winners presented at the National Awards ceremony in Kilkenny on 15th May. St. Anne's Secondary

School, Tipperary Town were awarded a Regional prize for excellent work on their Global Citizen Litter & Waste Flag and Presentation Secondary School Thurles were awarded a Regional Award for outstanding work on their Global Citizen Energy Flag.



Figure 69: Students from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles receiving the Regional Award for Global Citizen Energy Flag

Rubbish Film Festival 2025

In the 2024/2025 academic year, 8 schools and over 90 Transition Year students from around the County took part in the first ever Tipperary Rubbish Film Festival. In partnership with Create Schools, 2-day workshops were provided to help students develop their skills to create a short, one-minute film about environmental issues that mattered to them.

The Best Movie Regional award went to the Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel for their film ‘The Fastest Fashion Show’. Turning the camera on the hidden side of the Fast Fashion industry by showing the harsh working conditions of those producing clothes for fashion outlets. The Presentation Secondary School went forward for the National awards but were unfortunate not to come back with a prize.

Runners up were Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry for their film ‘Behind closed doors’ a clever film showing that hiding away from climate change won’t make the climate crisis disappear.

The best Poster winners were Scoil Mhuire, Carrick on Suir for their poster ‘Online Whispers’ showing their creativity and impact of their poster with the catchy slogan, ‘misinformation causes climate denial’.

All films are available to view on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5AJXMAJm5w>

Relove Fashion Competition

The National Relove Fashion Competition awards were held in the Rediscovery Centre Ballymun, the National Centre for the Circular Economy on 30th April. Over 400 young people aged 12-19 across Ireland were encouraged to rethink fast fashion and embrace creativity, building skills in reuse, repair, and redesign. Winning outfits included evening dresses elegantly upcycled from jeans, preloved shirts made into casual dresses, old ties, belts and bedsheets beautifully transformed to create sustainable outfits.

18 schools from Tipperary registered to take part in the competition with 4 schools making it through the final stages. The Southern Regional award for the most innovative design was awarded to Students Megan Byrne & Eimear O’Gorman from Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed Thurles, for their clever use of ties and deconstructed pre-worn clothes to create their outfit. The competition is funded through a partnership between the National Waste Regions, participating Local Authorities and the Rediscovery Centre.



Figure 70: Students from the Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel

8.18 Biomethane for Carbon and Community

Biomethane for Carbon and Community (BCC) is a strategic research and capacity-building project led by Tipperary County Council in partnership with TUS, the IBF, and the TEA. Funded under the EU Just Transition Programme, the project aims to position Tipperary and its hinterland as leaders in developing a sustainable biomethane sector, aligned with the National Biomethane Strategy (LACAP Actions 98, 99 and 100).

Operating from the Biomethane Development Office (BDO) at the National Bioeconomy Campus, Lisheen, within the Tipperary DZ, the project team works closely with stakeholders across agriculture, industry, government, and communities. The focus is on building knowledge, capacity, and a roadmap for biomethane production using locally available feedstocks such as slurry, grass silage, agricultural residues, and organic waste.

Key objectives and activities include:

- ▶ Feasibility study for biomethane development in Tipperary, including the DZ.
 - ▶ Communications and outreach campaign to build community capacity.
 - ▶ Stakeholder engagement and collaboration at national and EU levels.
 - ▶ Exploring community cooperative models for biomethane projects.
 - ▶ Promoting Lisheen as a centre of excellence for biomethane development.
 - ▶ Supporting DZ objectives for GHG and enabling for future investment.
- ▶ Developing a planning, licensing, and construction roadmap for biomethane processing facilities.
 - ▶ Identifying synergies between the bioeconomy and biomethane sectors.

The BCC project will help enable Tipperary to be an innovator in responding to national policy, ensuring local communities benefit through reduced fossil fuel reliance, biodiversity gains, and the creation of sustainable local jobs.

Activities delivered in 2025:

1. Preparation of draft feasibility study for development of biom.
2. Stakeholder mapping and analysis.
3. Development of messaging for engagement with stakeholders in the Agriculture, Industry, Local Government, and Community sectors.
4. Engagement, networking and collaboration with stakeholders in the energy sector.
5. Development of a Biomethane Development Office website as an independent information hub.
6. Positioning of the Biomethane Development Office in Lisheen as a centre of excellence of biomethane development in Ireland.
7. Preparation of additional funding proposals to SEAI and JTF.

Further details maybe found here [Biomethane for Carbon and Community - TUS](#)

Biomethane
for Carbon and Community

8.19 Climate Adaptation with European partners

Tipperary County Council Environment and Climate Action Department, is participating in a 5-year shared learning project called 'ADAPTO'. The aim of the project is to help adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. There are 5 European regions involved focusing on interregional cooperation, by learning from each other's experiences, and good practices to strengthen climate adaptation policies. The regions meet twice a year to share ideas and identify common areas for collaboration.

There were 2 partner meetings in 2025. In June the partners met in Lorient, in Brittany. The partners visited a coastal community adapting to climate change by collaborating with a local third level institute to develop site specific nature based coastal defences. The local community developed and maintain a constructed sand dune complex that provides a barrier between the sea and the village. The local third level institute monitor the health of the sand dunes and pilot novel solutions to improve their stability in collaboration with the community. There is a strong citizen science element to the initiative. With the community recording data using mobile phones and uploading it to the institutes information system. This nature-based solution has reduced the impact and frequency of coastal surges on the village. Aspects of the process could be replicated in Tipperary.

In October, the partners met in in Levos, in Greece where they visited a UNESCO geopark on the island that uses the unique landscape to show how the island landscape evolved slowly over

time, but now due to climate change the landscape is changing rapidly. Due to the reduction in rainfall and the increase in temperature the fertile part of the island is shrinking. The peatlands in Tipperary have a rich cultural and historical heritage that has evolved over time. There may be opportunities to use the peatlands as a narrative of Tipperary's cultural relationship with fragile ecosystems.

At the end of 2024, LAWPRO published an "Implementation of Urban Nature-based Solutions Guidance Document for Planners, Developers and Developer Agents". This was developed in collaboration with Tipperary County Council. Both Cyprus and Poland are interested in using the guidance as a model to support the development of NBS in their own regions. The Tipperary County Council Climate Action Officer submitted this as a good practice to [Interreg Europe](#) and it was peer reviewed published in May 2025.



Figure 71: ADAPTO EU partners social media post from October 2025

8.20 Housing Delivery and Retrofitting Programmes

Climate action and awareness is an essential element of the work of the Housing Department at Tipperary County Council in line with Actions 41, 42 and 43 of the LACAP. Climate action is incorporated in the new housing programme, and the housing retrofitting programme with the aim of delivering of energy efficient housing throughout the county.

New Housing Delivery Programme

In 2025, Tipperary County Council completed 232 new housing units in the county. These developments ranged in size from a development of 61 units in Thurles, right down to smaller projects across the county of just one or two units.

All of these new houses have an A2 BER rating and have been designed and built with special emphasis on their life cycle performance and energy efficiency. The Council knows that the most efficient way to effect positive change is to improve the performance of buildings at design stage. Therefore, materials are sourced according to their carbon demand, renewable energy technologies are incorporated and homes are designed to have maximum insulation and comfort at design stage. All new development incorporates green infrastructural elements and nature-based solutions to encourage biodiversity, manage surface water and to deliver a quality of life for their inhabitants.



Figure 72: *New Homes in Tipperary Town*



Figure 73: *New Homes in Nenagh*

Local Authority Housing Retrofit Programme

Tipperary County Council Housing Department also carries out an annual retrofitting programme for social homes under the Social Housing Retrofit programme (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage).

This Programme aims to enhance energy efficiency in social housing, targeting the retrofitting of homes to improve comfort, reduce energy costs, and meet environmental standards. In 2025, work to 64 houses was completed, and the

total number of dwellings that have been upgraded in the programme in Tipperary now exceeds 300 units. Retrofitting work typically involves some or all of the following; cavity wall insulation, external insulation, attic insulation, new doors and windows, the sealing chimneys, heat pump installation, and energy efficient lighting.

In many cases this work has resulted in the energy rating of these properties being upgraded from a BER rating of E1 to a post-retrofit minimum BER rating of B2.

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