

**Minutes of
 West Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
 Council Chamber Kent Street Clonakilty & Via Microsoft Teams**

Date: 26th October 2023

Time: 3.00pm.

Present:

Name	Organisation	Public/Private
Cllr. John O'Sullivan	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Michael Lynch	Divisional Manager West Cork	Public
Ms. Máire Ní Shé	Udarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Mr. Enda McWeeny	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Phoebe Bright	Environment Pillar	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD Partnership CLG	Private
Mr. Cornelius Buckley	Farming Pillar/IFA	Private
Ms. Máire Uí Mhaoláin	Comhar na nOileán Teo	Private
Ms. Eileen O' Shea	Civic Society	Private
Mr. Finbarr Harrington	Cork County PPN	Private

Apologies:

Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Kevin Curran	Head of LEO West	Public
Ms. Leighann Kennedy	Department of Social Protection	Public
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	West Cork Development Partnership	Private
Mr. Colm Leen	Cork Chamber	Private
Vacant	Foroige	Private
Vacant	Cork County PPN	Private

Staff in Attendance

Mr. Andrew Lewis	Substitute LCDC Chief Officer	Cork County Council
Ms. Elaine Connolly	Clerical Officer	Cork County Council

<p>Quorum = 11 (50% of 19 rounded up +1 = 11) In attendance = 12 (6 Private: 6 Public) Apologies = 7 Total membership = 19</p>

Welcome & Introduction

It was noted that Andrew Lewis was appointed as Substitute LCDC Chief Officer for the purposes of this meeting. It was noted that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 20th July 2023.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Declan Hurley and seconded by Finbarr Harrington.

Matters arising

N/A

2. Update on Cork County Councils Draft Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 by Tim Twomey

Cork County Council Draft Climate Action Plan Briefing

Statutory Context

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021

“Each local authority shall prepare and make a plan relating to a period of five years which shall specify the mitigation measures and the adaptation measures to be adopted by the local authority”.

Minister notified LA’s 24th Feb 2023

Adoption of Cork County Council Climate Action Plan: Deadline 23rd Feb 2024

Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines

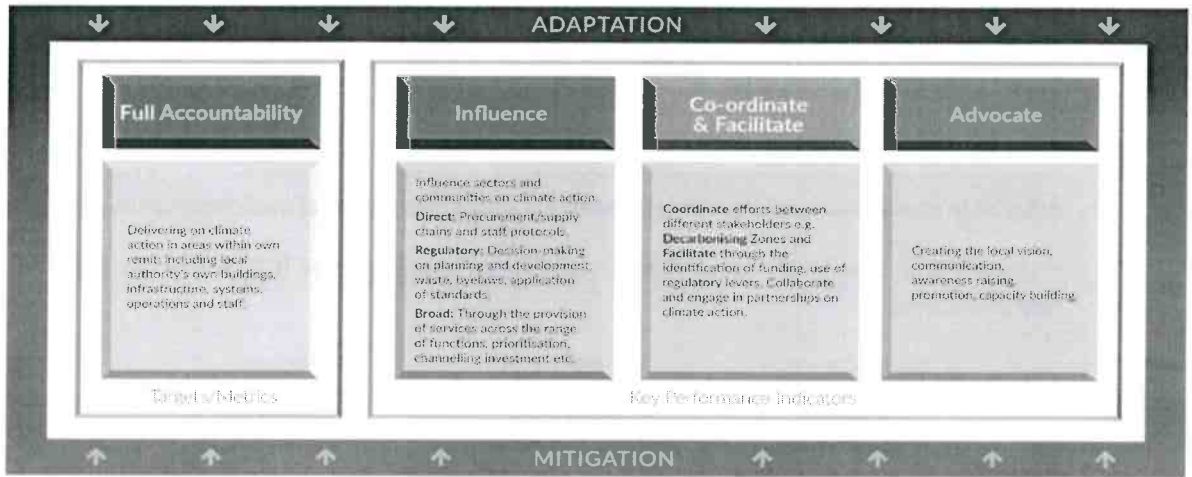
Annex A: Developing and Implementing the Local Authority Climate Action Plan

Annex B: Climate Change Risk Assessment

Annex C: Baseline Emissions Inventory

Annex D: Decarbonising Zones

Local Authority Scope on Climate Action



Climate Policy Context

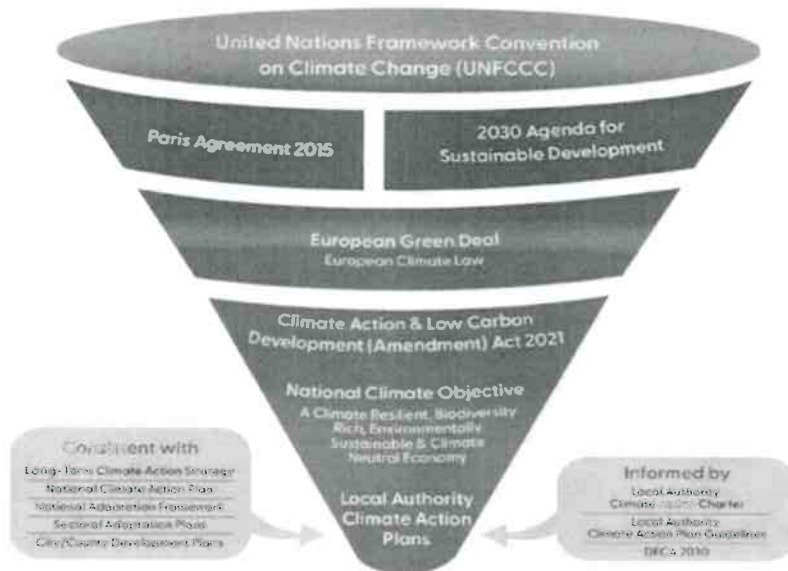


Figure (iii): Legislation and Policy Context for the Climate Action Plan (Source: Climate Action Regional Offices)

Cork County Council – Climate Action Plan

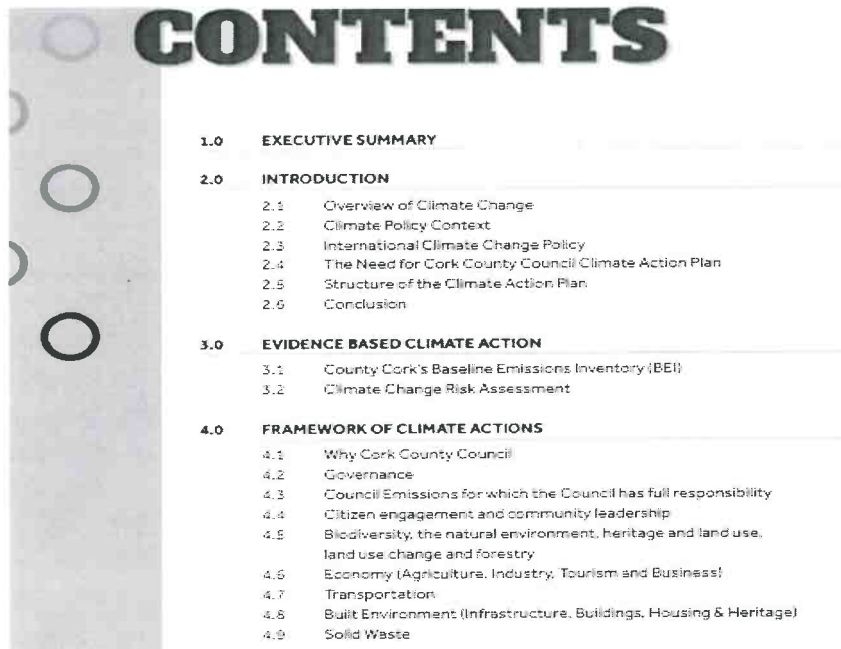
- The Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 sets out the actions that Cork County Council will take across its own services to meet national emissions targets and to increase the resilience of its human and infrastructural assets against climate change impacts.
- This plan also specifies how the local authority will work with its communities to advocate for change and with national government and state agencies to deliver climate action.

Cork County Council - Climate Action Plan

Climate Action Plan sets a pathway for Cork County Council to actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures including to:

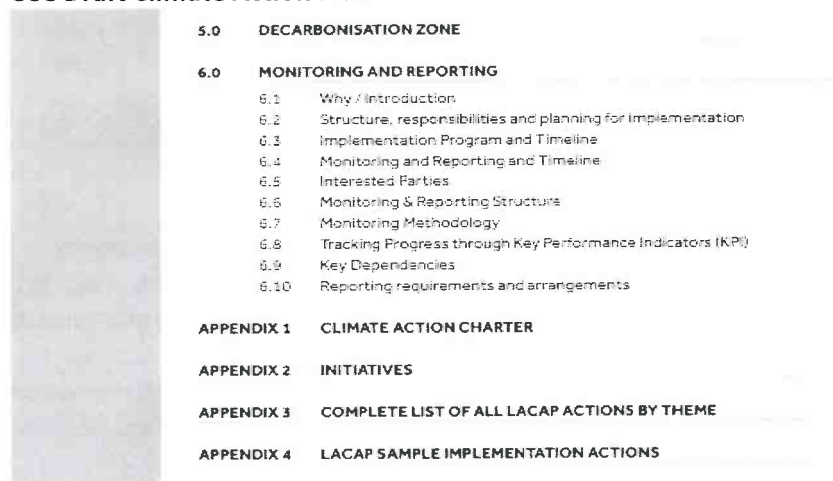
- Reduce its direct carbon emissions by 51% by 2030,
- Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels; and
- Identify and support the development of a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area.

CCC Draft Climate Action Plan



1.0	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
2.0	INTRODUCTION
2.1	Overview of Climate Change
2.2	Climate Policy Context
2.3	International Climate Change Policy
2.4	The Need for Cork County Council Climate Action Plan
2.5	Structure of the Climate Action Plan
2.6	Conclusion
3.0	EVIDENCE BASED CLIMATE ACTION
3.1	County Cork's Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI)
3.2	Climate Change Risk Assessment
4.0	FRAMEWORK OF CLIMATE ACTIONS
4.1	Why Cork County Council
4.2	Governance
4.3	Council Emissions for which the Council has full responsibility
4.4	Citizen engagement and community leadership
4.5	Biodiversity, the natural environment, heritage and land use, land use change and forestry
4.6	Economy (Agriculture, Industry, Tourism and Business)
4.7	Transportation
4.8	Built Environment (Infrastructure, Buildings, Housing & Heritage)
4.9	Solid Waste

CCC Draft Climate Action Plan – Contents



5.0	DECARBONISATION ZONE
6.0	MONITORING AND REPORTING
6.1	Why / Introduction
6.2	Structure, responsibilities and planning for implementation
6.3	Implementation Program and Timeline
6.4	Monitoring and Reporting and Timeline
6.5	Interested Parties
6.6	Monitoring & Reporting Structure
6.7	Monitoring Methodology
6.8	Tracking Progress through Key Performance Indicators (KPI)
6.9	Key Dependencies
6.10	Reporting requirements and arrangements
APPENDIX 1	CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER
APPENDIX 2	INITIATIVES
APPENDIX 3	COMPLETE LIST OF ALL LACAP ACTIONS BY THEME
APPENDIX 4	LACAP SAMPLE IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Climate Action Plan – Structure

- **Themes:** Direct Emissions, Citizen Engagement, Biodiversity, Economy, Transportation, Built Environment, Solid Waste.

- ▶ **Goals:** The goals are set in the context of themes and establish a structured arrangement of objectives and actions within a framework of both mitigation and adaptation actions. The goals are context-specific and support tailored actions to respond to local issues.
- ▶ **Overarching Objectives:** The objectives support the delivery of the goals and frame the actions. The objectives are not intended to be measurable but rather they serve to generally define key areas, from which measurable climate actions are seeking to deliver upon.
- ▶ **Actions:** The actions are defined and measurable and are focused upon delivering the overarching objectives.

CAP Goals / Objectives / Actions

Theme	Goals	Objectives	Actions
Governance	1	9	30
Emissions	1	4	20
Community	1	9	29
Biodiversity	4	12	60
Economy & Agriculture	1	8	30
Transport	1	5	18
Built Environment	5	13	41
Waste	1	4	17
Overall			245

Example of Actions

Objective 4.4.1.2 : We commit to inform, educate and create awareness about climate action and promote engagement

NO.	ACTION
4.4.1.2.1	Create awareness about, and promote understanding of, climate change in Cork County through communications and education. Communications strategies will be tailored to particular audiences and may include: campaigns, talks, debates, online information, guidance documents, webinars, podcasts, video, radio and information disseminated through the Cork County libraries network (with 26 branches).
4.4.1.2.2	Develop links with young citizens (e.g. the Comhairle Na nÓg) to give voice to their concerns about climate change and to enhance their awareness and the actions that they can take.
4.4.1.2.3	Engage older people in climate action by working with the Age Friendly networks and the Older People's Council to ensure that awareness of climate action is raised and to promote and enhance the actions that they can take as a response to climate change.
4.4.1.2.4	Promote public engagement with climate action through arts linking in with the climate change pillar of Creative Ireland.
4.4.1.2.5	Liaise with other agencies to develop and promote Climate Community Leadership that will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build knowledge, confidence and capacity of community members to initiate climate action in their neighbourhoods • Build capacity of community leaders/change agents to "talk climate" in their networks • Identify and acknowledge existing community climate action 'champions/heroes' and acknowledge and amplify their campaigns
4.4.1.2.6	Build on Cork County Council's awareness month "Make One Change: Cork County Cuts Carbon" (initiated by the Council in 2022)
4.4.1.2.7	Continue to promote schools' programmes such as Green Flags, School Gardens, Climate Literacy.
4.4.1.2.8	Develop partnerships with external agencies and community organisations to enable climate action projects at community level.
4.4.1.2.9	Support and work with LAWPRO to encourage a community response to enable water conservation in the community, in association with local community groups.

4.4.1.8 Objective: We commit to promoting Active Travel

NO.	ACTION
4.4.1.8.1	Participate in and support activities of the Transport and Mobility Forum.
4.4.1.8.2	Continue the implementation of 'safe routes to school' and neighbourhood greenways to further enhance localised active-travel infrastructure; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.
4.4.1.8.3	Continue promotion and support for the Active Travel Green Flags; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.
4.4.1.8.4	Support active travel promotional events of stakeholders e.g. Mix Your Mode, Bike Week etc.
4.4.1.8.5	Continue to encourage the development of bottom-up sustainable transport initiatives and engage with communities on new initiatives, where appropriate; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality etc.

Objectives 4.9.1.2 - Work with communities and stakeholders to eliminate littering and dumping.

NO.	ACTION
4.9.1.2.1	Continue anti-litter challenge to raise awareness in communities.
4.9.1.2.2	Work with stakeholders on education and awareness in relation to proper disposal of waste.
4.9.1.2.3	Work with stakeholders on annual waste enforcement priorities.

Implementation

- ▶ **Climate Action Plan will be implemented over a 5 year timeframe.**
- ▶ **Annual Implementation Programme will support the application of the plan to :**
 - ▶ align the plan actions with the annual budgetary process
 - ▶ allow the plan to be dynamic aligning with changing national, EU and international policy.

- ▶ give further detail and Key Performance Indicators for each year.

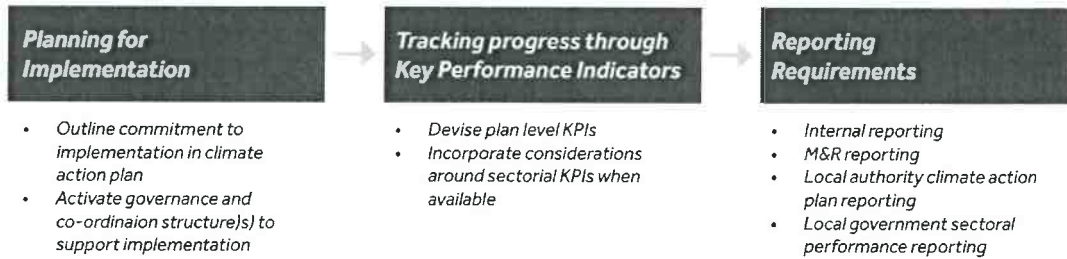


Figure 6.1: Core tasks during the implementation and reporting phase

Annual Implementation Plan – Sample Actions

Theme	Action No.	Action Description	Steps	Lead Dept	KPI/metric	Time-frame
<u>4.3 - Direct Emissions</u>	4.3.1.2.2	Assess opportunities to replace oil/gas burners usage with renewable alternatives to identify projects for annual implementation programme	Assess opportunities to replace oil/gas burners in selected council owned buildings	SEO Environment Facilities	Asset Register of Oil/Gas Burners prepared	Within year 1 of the LA CAP resolution
<u>4.4 - Community, Information & Awareness</u>	4.4.1.3.1	Support the delivery of Local Climate Action projects funded through the new Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP). The CCAP will operate under the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home/Energy • Travel • Food and Waste • Shopping and Recycling • Local Climate and Environmental Action. The fund allocated to Cork County is €1.2 million over a three-year period. There will be €600,000 for the first 18 months and €600,000 in the following 18-month period.	Invite proposals from the public on possible projects e.g., a community soil composter in the proposed DZ area	SEO Economic Development	No. of proposals received.	Within year 1 of the LA CAP resolution
			Assess proposal and approve e.g., approval of composter project and site in a civic amenity centre.	SEO Economic Development	Cubic metres of soil created.	Within 2 years of LACAP resolution
			Reuse Soil created in the local parks and other public areas.	SEO Economic Development	Cubic metres of soil reused.	Within 3 years of LACAP resolution]

Key Dates

- ❖ Draft plan published : 13th October
- ❖ Public Consultation online : Ending Monday 27th November
- ❖ Final LACAP draft to be completed - December
- ❖ CE Report, SEA / AA report and LA CAP with amendments
- ❖ Final Draft Plan to Full Council
- ❖ Deadline for Adoption: 23rd February 2024

Public Consultation

Cork County Council Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report and Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, will be on display from Friday 13th October to Monday 27th November 2023, at the following locations:

- Online at www.corkcoco.ie.
- All branches of Cork County Council Libraries during Library opening hours

Making a Submission

Written submissions through the Council's Public Consultation Portal available at

<https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/environment/climate-action-plan>

Deadline for Submissions is 4:00pm on Monday 27th November 2023

The Chair Cllr. John O'Sullivan thanked Tim Twomey for his presentation and opened the floor for any comments or questions.

Cllr. Declan Hurley thanked Tim Twomey for his informative presentation and had a query regarding decarbonising zones and how they will come to delivery within the 5 year plan will there be a cost on Cork County Council when implementing the plan and if local authorities can't implement the cost if funding is available will the government bridge the cost. Tim Twomey response to Cllr. Declan Hurley's query was that central government will be providing the funding and the decarbonising ones initiatives will change through out the county depending on projects and funding.

The Chair Cllr. John O'Sullivan had a query regarding the adaptability of the guidelines and what other bodies engaged on this Climate Action Plan . The Chair also mentioned that in Timoleague school and Tidy Towns, lease a piece of land which was used by Irish Water for an educational garden and that other areas should look into something like this. Tim Twomey responded that there has been plenty of response and engagement from the public and that public consultations are online. The Chair asked had there been direct contact from NGO's regarding the consultations which Tim Twomey responded not as of yet no but the door is open for feedback.

Phoebe Bright mentioned the importance of guidelines and what is the definition of sustainability and would that definition will be available, and Tim responded to Phoebe query that the definition will be available.

Ryan Howard thanked Tim Twomey for his presentation and suggested can the consultations be directed to communities, local development group platforms and can a separate consultation for further projects can be separate for them. Tim Twomey responded that a Community Officer will be commencing shortly and that they will have a role with working with the communities at a local level. The Chair Cllr. John O' Sullivan thanked Tim again and wished him the best of luck in the new role.

3. SICAP

Nil

4. Any Other Business

Phoebe Bright mentioned that she knows of a transition year student who will be looking for working experience starting the week of the 13th November and if the members would know of any work available for them to keep them in mind.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 23rd November 2023 at 3.30pm.

Meeting Concluded

The Minutes were approved by the West Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Signed:



CHAIRPERSON

Dated:

23/11/23

