

COUNTY ROSCOMMON

Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

First Implementation report
March 2024



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Gníomhaíthe ar Son
na hAeráide Ros Comáin
Climate Action
Roscommon



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the first progress report of the Roscommon County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (LACAP). This progress report reflects the plan implementation period from February 2024 to January 2025, in line with the annual milestone of the adoption of the plan by elected members of Roscommon County Council.

This report offers an overview of progress in the first year of the plan implementation against the ambition of the plan, aligned to the Government's National Climate Objective to achieve the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.

This report outlines the progress of the LACAP in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and reflects how

climate action has been embedded and progressed throughout all departments within the Local Authority.

Methodology and Format of Report

The format of this report is informed by the reporting requirements for Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAP), the Roscommon County Council LACAP, recommendations of broader sustainability reporting frameworks¹ and alignment with Agenda 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Accordingly, this report provides progress updates covering actions of the LACAP delivered and commenced in 2024 and presents information in line with the following strategic commitments:

Governance & Leadership	Oversight and procedural aspects of integrating climate related matters into governance processes, business and operational models and organisational and local policy instruments.
Climate Mitigation Targets	Progress on delivering prescribed emission reduction targets established by national climate policy for all public sector entities in line with reporting methodology of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).
Climate Adaptation Goals	Measures to plan for and reduce vulnerability of local authority services and communities to climate change impacts, minimise risks and costs and protect lives and property by building resilience into natural and human systems.
Delivery across Services	The diverse range of services and functions perform climate action through various policy areas, to support, facilitate and enable government departments, agencies and stakeholders to meet their climate goals at the local level and influence the value chain through Green Public Procurement.
Community Engagement & Activation	Actions that support community engagement, activity and capacity to build resilience to climate change impacts, reduce energy consumption and emissions and protect, restore and/or enhance biodiversity and work to achieve the objectives of the Decarbonising Zone(s) (DZ).

¹ Including Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Frameworks and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) standards.

The report updates on progress of delivering actions pursued in 2024 from various themes of the plan. Case studies are provided to highlight the tangible value of actions being undertaken.

Climate Actions and UN Sustainability Goals

The information detailed in the report details actions and their alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are “a blueprint to achieve a

better and more sustainable future for all”.² They represent 17 social, economic and environmental priorities designed to combat the global challenges facing humanity by 2030. Roscommon County Council has an important part to play in progress toward the UN SDGs.

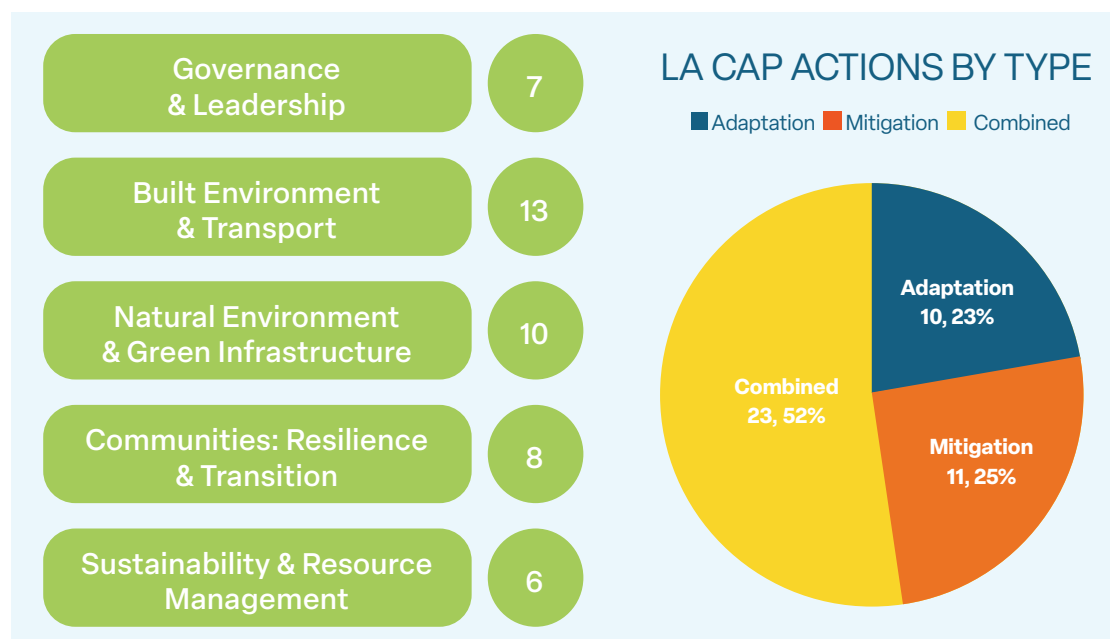
The LACAP has identified and mapped actions to the SDGs. Through this progress report, contributions to delivering on the UN SDGs through the delivery of actions, are reflected from an environmental perspective.



² UN Sustainable Development Goals: Available at: THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development

1.1 Climate Action Plan Overview

The Climate Action Plan contains 44 actions (plus an additional DZ actions) distributed across five thematic areas as follows:



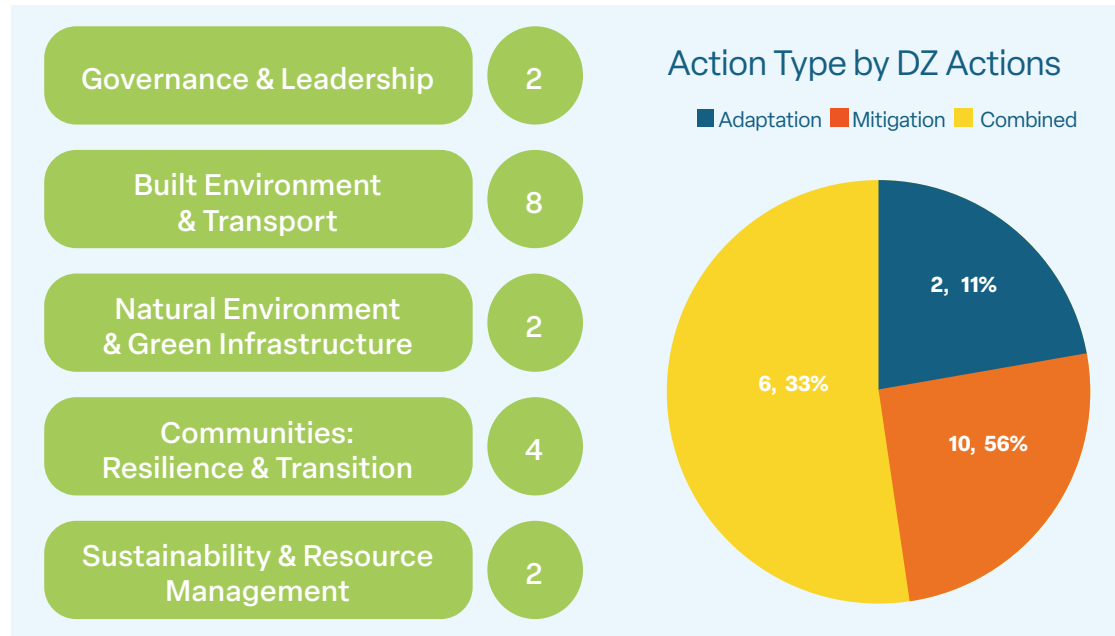
The implementation timeframes of these LA CAP actions are as follows:

	Governance & Leadership	Built Environment & Transport	Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	Communities: Resilience & Transition	Sustainability & Resource Management
Actions commenced in 2024	7	12	9	8	6
Actions Completed in 2024	2	2	4	2	3
Actions Commenced that will be Completed after 2024	6 (6 recurring)	10 (8 recurring)	5 (9 recurring)	6 (8 recurring)	0 (6 recurring)
Actions to be commenced after 2024	0	1	1	0	0

The above table reflects the recurring nature of many actions and illustrates the ongoing nature of the Climate Action programme over the period of the plan while recognising the progress that has been made over the first year of adoption.

1.1.1 DZ Actions Overview

The DZ Chapter of the Climate Action Plan contains 18 DZ actions distributed across 5 thematic areas as follows:







The implementation timeframes, taking into account the recurring nature of most actions are as follows:


	Governance & Leadership	Built Environment & Transport	Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	Communities: Resilience & Transition	Sustainability & Resource Management
Actions commenced in 2024	2	7	2	4	2
Actions Completed in 2024	1	3	2	1	0
Actions Commenced that will be Completed after 2024	2 (2 recurring)	7 (7 recurring)	2 (2 recurring)	3 (4 recurring)	2 (2 recurring)
Actions to be commenced after 2024	0	1	0	0	0






1.2 Alignment of Progress with the United Nations Sustainability Goals

The table below provides an indicative snapshot of progress towards the SDGs through actions underway as part of the climate action plan

Actions Completed and in progress in 2024		
SDG	Link to Theme / Target	Our Performance Towards the SDGs
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>Eradicate Poverty Implement nationally appropriate systems and measures Build resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate related extreme events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Housing section continue social housing retrofitting programme and energy efficiency training for new tenants ● The SWERT monitor and respond to extreme weather events and engage with national and regional counterparts and implement appropriate systems and measures as required to respond to extreme weather events.
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>Ensure Universal access to affordable energy services Increase substantially the share of renewable energy Promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean Energy technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In conjunction with local communities and individuals, the community section secured and coordinated the delivery of community hubs during the recent Storm Eowyn and subsequent loss of utilities and services across the county.
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>Improve global resource efficiency in consumption and production and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The climate action unit continue to work in conjunction with the Just Transition Fund on the development and implementation of projects in areas and for vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by the transition to a carbon neutral society. In particular, the roll out of the wind turbine construction course in conjunction with GRETB will empower individuals in remote areas to enhance their resilience and avail of smart technologies otherwise not within reach.
 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>Develop Quality, reliable sustainable and resilient infrastructure Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable with increased resource-use efficiency, adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assets and Energy Management continue with the dedicated programme of energy efficiency improvements throughout the organisation in support of national mitigation targets. ● Environment, Economic Development and Climate collaborate with LAWPRO on the development of nature based solutions to enhance resilience for communities throughout the County. ● The LEO engage with businesses and SMEs within the County, administering green for micro and other supports to enhance the use of renewable, clean and energy efficient technologies.

Actions Completed and in progress in 2024		
SDG	Link to Theme / Target	Our Performance Towards the SDGs
 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	Provide access to safe, affordable accessible and sustainable transport systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital projects are including Climate Considerations in the design and development of new projects including Active Travel, use of NBS and Zero Energy construction in new builds. The housing section continue to administer the Croí Cónaithe Grant that ensures efficient reuse of services and facilities and increases the viability of existing infrastructure. Assets and energy management continue to work towards national targets in terms of energy efficiency in council properties. The roads section are currently managing the transition to HVO in HGVs. The Active Travel unit implement a range of projects promoting safe and sustainable transport and liaise with the NTA on the delivery of enhanced and inclusive rural transport services and connections with mainstream facilities. The CAU liaise directly with the Active Travel section on the progression of public transport infrastructure and the development of projects, particularly potentially transformational interventions in the DZ area The CAU continues to engage with economic development, planning and community on applications and climate action potential of projects and plans in the County.
 2 ZERO HUNGER	End all forms of malnutrition Ensure sustainable food production systems, implement resilient agricultural practices that strengthen capacity for adaptation to Climate Change Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, plants and animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Climate, in conjunction with partners including Roscommon Women's Network, the rediscovery Centre and Age Friendly Roscommon have been involved in the roll out information courses and exhibitions on promoting good nutrition in the context of climate action and reducing food waste.
 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from air, water and soil pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Climate Unit are supporting projects through the community climate action fund on the resilience in agriculture, animal welfare and sustainable horticulture.
 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Protect and resort water-related ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAU have developed relationships in the farming sector with Teagasc and have engaged in farm walkovers, contributing to climate action potential in conjunction with the BBO. The first iteration of a DIY wind turbine development course has taken place that potentially facilitates farming in remote areas toward resilience in power supply and increased self-sufficiency.

Actions Completed and in progress in 2024		
SDG	Link to Theme / Target	Our Performance Towards the SDGs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm inspections are carried out, Discharge licences administered, new development assessed, water bodies and supplies are monitored and remedial measures taken as appropriate under the Environment Section to protect and enhance water quality and promote sustainable farming and development methods. Environment and Climate continue to collaborate with LAWPRO and the NFGWS on the promotion of nature based solutions and other measures to enhance water quality and biodiversity. Through a wide programme of environmental activities.
 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the MOU with SEAI, RCC provides support to SECs, which include rural water schemes, to deliver safe and sustainable water supplies and contributed to annual conference on mainstreaming of climate action as part of overall project. Working with LAWPRO, rural water section/NFGWS, biodiversity and SECs, building on the success of the pilot programme to promote renewable technologies, energy efficiency, biodiversity and water quality enhancement measures in the county. The LBAF project in Loughnaneane Park addresses biodiversity enhancement and sustainable ecosystem management, in tandem with water quality improvement and eradication of invasive species in conjunction with the local community through the Roscommon Tidy Towns. A tree management strategy is in the final stages of development, the draft findings of which are applied to this project in addition to the sustainable management of public spaces guidelines developed in conjunction with Maynooth University and Kildare County Council. This is a pilot initiative that it is anticipated will be applied to other areas within the County.
	ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services Reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems	

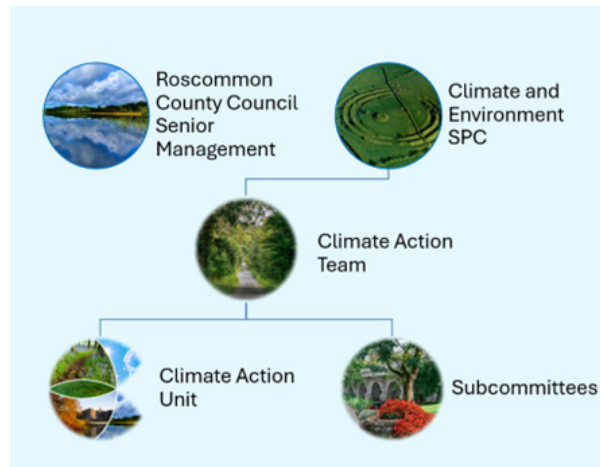
Actions Completed and in progress in 2024		
SDG	Link to Theme / Target	Our Performance Towards the SDGs
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded by the EUJTF and administered by EMRA and Pobal, the Climate unit, in conjunction with GRETB, launched the DIY wind Turbine course in December 2024. Ten participants graduated from the first iteration in February 2025. The Climate unit, in conjunction with partner organisations are involved in various climate courses and capacity building programmes with in the County, targeted towards promotion of diversity, gender equality and social inclusion. These include a dedicated Local Climate Action Course with GRETB, the ECCO programme with RWN and the rediscovery centre and Climate Conversations for the over 60s with Age Friendly Roscommon. The EAO rolls out an annual programme of educational and capacity building events, including those related to green schools, waste management and the circular economy, greening festivals and events and promotes internal behavioural change within the organisation. A strong relationship is maintained with the PPN in the implementation of actions contained within the LACAP and information on initiatives are distributed throughout this network to reach broadest range communities. The climate Action unit attend all PPN plenary sessions. The green public procurement strategy is now operational in RCC. A climate change risk and vulnerability assessment was prepared as part of the LACAP to be maintained under review.
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	Ensure Women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership	
 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	Empower and promote social, economic and political inclusion	
 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>Achieve sustainable management and efficient use of resources</p> <p>Reduce waste generation</p> <p>Promote sustainable public procurement practices</p> <p>Ensure that people have information and awareness for sustainable development</p>	
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters</p> <p>Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressing educational initiatives funded under JFT to target communities in transition. Also working with areas like Cloontuskert and Ballyleague under CCAF to enhance resilience and sustainability. The housing section continue to administer the Croí Cónaithe grant in support of sustainable reuse of vacant and derelict homes and their supporting services. Of the 381 applications received, 209 are approved and 51 grants paid out to date, equating to €3m. In tandem with EAO and energy team initiatives, provide information for staff and the public, eg. SEAI information day, EV demonstration, intranet publications and information sessions, green schools initiatives, over 60s Climate Course, GRETB local Climate action.

Actions Completed and in progress in 2024		
SDG	Link to Theme / Target	Our Performance Towards the SDGs
	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrated Climate Action throughout Council as a standing item on relevant internal and external meetings. ● Roll out of community climate action fund supporting communities in achieving ambition in renewable energy, energy security and efficiency measures. ● The climate Action unit have engaged in an extensive range of communications throughout the county and with a range of sectors. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ attendance and networking with the PPN at bi-annual plenary sessions, ▶ supports to sustainable energy communities, ▶ presenting at community wetlands forum, ▶ collaboration with statutory undertakers such as Eirgrid, ▶ roll out of repair cafe in conjunction with EPA, ▶ working with Roscommon Tidy towns on SDG week, Global Rossie/ launch of decarbonising zone and LBAF, EV demonstration event, ▶ liaising with Comhairle na nOg, ▶ launch of LECP/Leader programme/LACAP as joint event to illustrate synergies across social, economic and community areas, ▶ working with Age Friendly Roscommon on the roll out of a climate action course for over 60's, ▶ offering support to local organisations on funding applications in the climate area such as Casltlerea Tidy Towns/Towns trust, ▶ RWN on various funding streams and collaboration on events. ▶ The CAU liaises with the various internal departments at a strategic level through the CAT but also at an operational level (eg. Biodiversity, Environment, Roads, A&EM, Community) ● The CAU are represented on the LEADER programme evaluation committee and continually monitors initiatives across the organisation and externally through established networks to identify and implement mainstreaming initiatives and illustrate relationships to mainstream climate action, eg. Joint launch of LECP/LEADER programme and LACAP - this provided for an alignment of the various plans and programmes to illustrate the synergies between them to a broad and diverse audience.
	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels	

2. LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

2.1 Governance Structure

Governance provisions for the implementation of the LACAP are outlined in the diagram (right)



2.2 Integration of Climate Action Objective into Plans and Operations

The vision and mission of the Roscommon County Council Corporate plan, outlined below, forms the basis of organisational operations and planning over the next five years.

- *Vision – Working together to make Roscommon your County of Choice*
- *Mission – Making Roscommon a welcoming, sustainable, inclusive, prosperous and vibrant place of choice to live, invest, work and visit.*

Governance and leadership objectives contained within the LACAP strive to embed the climate agenda across Roscommon County Council in line with the vision and mission outlined above.

Both the United Nations sustainable development goals and climate action objectives are embedded within the Corporate Plan, illustrating the strong

alignment with ongoing operations, future planning and service delivery within the organisation.

The following initiatives and actions are indicative of this alignment:

- Adoption of LACAP in January 2024 and incorporation of dedicated climate action objectives into Corporate plan 2024 – 2029, embedding the mitigation, adaptation, resilience, biodiversity enhancement and just transition goals across all functional areas
- Incorporation of Climate Action as a standing item at Council and management team meetings and integrated performance management process
- Alignment of activities with Environmental Awareness Officer to mainstream climate action across environmental initiatives internally and externally
- Development and roll out of dedicated CARO/LANSTG training programme for elected members and staff

- Development of pilot Microsoft teams tracking system to manage and monitor progress of Climate Action Plan Implementation across departments
- Engagement with capital departments on the development, design, funding and implementation of projects in community development, active travel, tourism, regeneration, Arts section and biodiversity enhancement to incorporate and align with climate objectives
- Participation in the zero emissions vehicle Ireland (ZEVI) scheme funded under the Just Transition programme, that provides grants to cover costs associated with civil, electrical, and installation works necessary to install publicly accessible 50 kW electric vehicle chargers
- Embedding energy efficiency, renewables and carbon reduction targets into fleet operations and management of local authority assets
- Ongoing housing retrofit, vacancy reduction, tenancy training and grant administration in the social housing department in support of energy management
- Alignment of LACAP actions and forthcoming Biodiversity Action Plan

2.3 Integration of Climate Related Risks into Local Authority Risk Register

The RCC risk register is currently in an advanced stage of development. Climate Risks are incorporated throughout the various departmental areas of responsibility as outlined above in the

corporate plan and are addressed as such at a strategic operational level, for example

Adaptation and resilience

Uncertainties around nature of and potential for extreme weather events make planning difficult in this area. This requires resources in particular from the roads, emergency services, civil defence, housing and community to address potential impacts on

- Protection of Human life and health – community outreach/supports,
- Damage to Transport and utility infrastructure and maintenance of operational integrity
- Maintenance of communications and business continuity
- Associated costs, reputation integrity

Getting public buy-in on transport and agricultural measures in particular is difficult and requires tailored communications, campaigns and initiatives to be re-enforced and supported at a national level with dedicated resources and funding streams to progress. Setbacks include recent storm events that reduce confidence in the resilience of the national grid and water resources.

Specific risks associated with the Climate Section relate to meeting sectoral mitigation targets and the potential reputational damage to the organisation that may arise as a result. These will be considered as part of Risk Register preparation.





2.4 Integration of Climate Action Considerations into Budgetary Processes and Financial Decision Making

Climate actions contained within the Plan identify lead and partner departments for implementation. These actions were developed as part of the LACAP in consultation with senior management, who have incorporated appropriate annual budgetary provision for implementation.

Examples include the delivery of new building and infrastructure projects, where climate considerations may include the

requirement for net zero construction and the incorporation of nature-based solutions and their associated financial implications. It is noted that grant administration departments at a national level may need to give greater consideration to these implications and make appropriate and explicit provision at allocation stage.

At a strategic level, the scale of budgetary provisions made across the organisation in relation to Climate Adaptation and mitigation are reflected in the capital allocations for the plan period included in the table below:

Adaptation/ Mitigation	Department	Project	Spend	Partner
M	Housing	Croí Cónaithe fund	€10,500,000	DHLGH
M		EERP	€3,800,000	DHLGH
A/M	Roads	N4 Carrick to Dromod - Active Travel	€4,500,000	TII
A/M		N5 Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge – * <i>incorporates Active Travel</i>	€291,000,000*	TII
A/M		Athlone to Ballyleague, Mid-Shannon Greenway, Lough Key to Carrick	€1,500,000	TII
A/M		N5 Ballanagare, frenchpark, Strokestown, Tulsk and Tulsk to Rathcroghan	€1,800,000	TII
A/M		Monksland/Bealnamullia masterplan	€1,500,000	NTA
A/M		Golf Link Road, Roscommon	€1,500,000	NTA
A/M		Footpaths	€1,200,000	IPB
A		CFRAM relief Schemes at Carrick and Bogganfin	TBC	OPW
A/M		Broadband	€125,000	DRCD EU
A/M	Environment	Rural Water Programme	€1,500,000	DHLGH
M		Landfill remediation, Roscommon and Ballaghaderreen	€250,000	
M		Civic Amenity site upgrades, bring banks	€145,000	
A/M		Climate Action Plan	€100,000	
A/M	Tourism and Heritage	Hodson Bay and Lough Key strategic Plan, other JT projects	€3,000,000	Just Transition Fund
A/M		Clár, ORIS, T&V, CRF	€7,900,000	DRCD
M	Assets/Energy management	Áras upgrade, Dillon house	€1,500,000	SEAI Pathfinder
M		PLEEP	€1,900,000	
A		Civil defence new building	€1,000,000	
A/M	Economic Development	Monksland, Strokestown Roscommon, Hodson bay, Tarmonbarry, Lough Key	€39,000,000	DRCD
A/M		Ballaghaderreen Public Realm	€4,300,000	NTA
A/M		IROS	€17,900,000	LSSIF
A/M		THRIVE	€7,200,000	DHLGH

2.5 Staff and Elected Members Training and Capacity Building

There are a wide range of internal communication initiatives underway on climate action, with the CAU, energy section and through the environmental awareness officer. Much of the climate action awareness training for staff and elected members was rolled out over 2022/2023 during the preparation phase of the current LACAP and served to significantly inform its delivery.

A range of internal capacity building initiatives were rolled out over the course of 2024. The CAU hosted an in-house EV demonstration event in May of 2024 with a wide range of vehicles from different manufacturers on display and available to test drive and experts on hand to provide tailored advice. This was well attended and generated significant interest and was replicated for the public in September 2024.

An Energy Event was held for staff in December 2024 in conjunction with SEAI mentors that provided details on grants available and general energy efficiency measures for domestic settings. This was carried out in tandem with well-attended on-on-one sessions for individuals for bill analysis and tailored advice. This was followed up with dedicated energy advice provided by the Energy Section at a lunchtime staff event in February 2025.

Roscommon County Council were represented on a brainstorming session held in 2024 with E&M CARO and select Climate Action Coordinators to inform the next training programme 2024-2027. The resulting programme was subsequently approved by the Department of Environment Climate and Communications and will commence rollout in 2025 for staff and elected members.

Local Authority Climate Action WEBINAR SERIES 2025

We are pleased to announce the following information for the 1st 3 webinars as part of the Spring edition of the Local Authority Climate Action Webinar Series 2025:

Date & Time	Webinar focus
21 st March 10 - 11:30am	Climate Change Adaptation - Planning for climate resilience
4 th April 10 - 11:30am	Urban Water - Nature Based Solutions
17 th April 10 - 11:30am	Biodiversity as an Ethos; and regulatory requirement



**Building
Capacity**
Local Authority Climate Action
Training Programme

Registration details for
each upcoming webinar
will follow

The Webinar Series is being delivered as part of the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



LOCAL AUTHORITY
Climate Action
Training Programme



Boireannacht, Comhaltas
ar son Aeráide Ros Comáin
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment



2.6 Climate Action Reporting Framework

Climate action reporting requirements and arrangements are set out on page 96 of LACAP and focus on six areas.



Internal Reporting

- IPM
- Climate Action Team
- Strategic Policy Committee
- Elected members - Full Council

Monitoring & Reporting

- SEAI

Sectoral Performance

- DECA 2030/LGMA KPI's

National Climate Action Plan

- DECC

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Climate action reporting requirements and arrangements are set out on page 96 of LACAP and focus on six areas.

Internal Reporting

- An in-house monitoring system is in place to monitor and track implementation progress. Progress is reported monthly to the management team and an update provided quarterly to the Climate Action team and the Strategic Policy Committee. This Implementation Progress Report will be prepared on an annual basis for submission to the elected members. The frequency of reporting may be increased where relevant data is made available on a more frequent basis.

Monitoring and Reporting (M&R)

- The Council continues to report on energy performance and emission targets annually to the SEAI and in this regard, has met the first deadline for 2024 Energy Data (electrical meter validation)

Sectoral Performance

- The Council continues to report annually on their performance on climate action by way of KPIs to inform the performance of the local government sector on climate action, as part of the local government DECA 2030 Strategy.

National Climate Action Plan

- The Council will, in accordance with Part 3(w) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter, continue to report annually to the DECC on progress on climate action at local level as part of the delivery of the national climate objective.



UN Sustainable Development Goals

- The 2018-2020 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan acknowledged that local government 'has a crucial role to play in translating national policies into tangible practical actions that can help to concretise the SDG objectives into our individual and communities' behaviours and goals.' Furthermore, local authorities are recognised as one of the Agenda 2030's nine 'Major Groups', which play a crucial role in sustainable development and Agenda 2030 also highlights the particular role of local authorities and communities in sustainable urban development. The Council is working to advance the SDGs. Each of the actions listed in the Climate Action Plan for the County and for the Decarbonisation Zone are mapped against the relevant goals and targets in the SDGs. Section 1.2 of this report outlines progress to date aligned with the SDGs and implementation of LACAP Actions

3. CLIMATE MITIGATION TARGETS

3.1 Emission Reduction and Energy Efficiency Targets Being Pursued

As a Local Authority, Roscommon County Council has the following obligations under the sectoral targets for 2030 set out in the National Climate Action plan:

- 51% reduction in GHG carbon emissions (2016-2018 baseline)
- 50% energy efficiency improvement (2009 baseline)

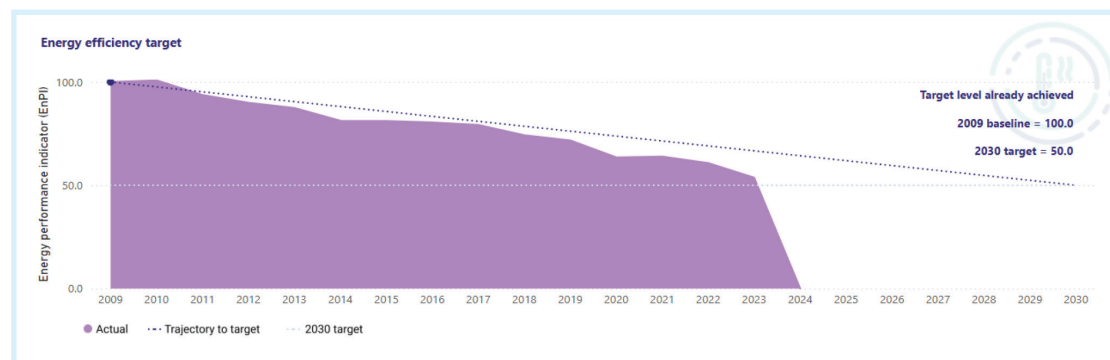
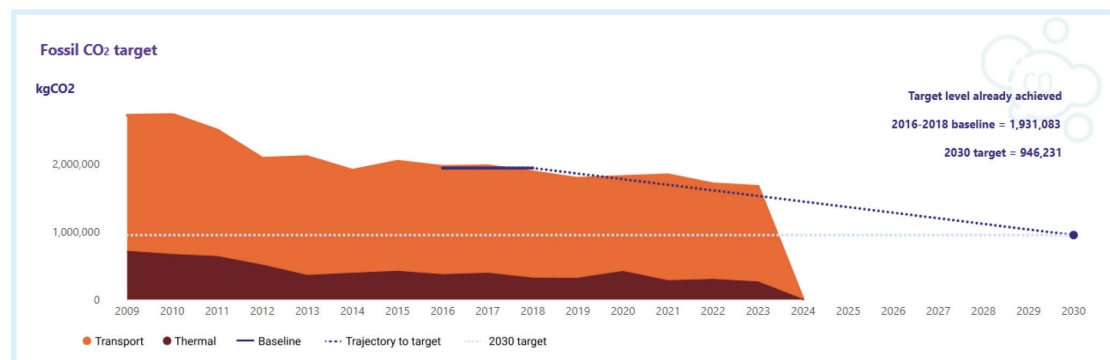
The Assets and Energy management Section of Roscommon County Council report annually to the SEAI through the M&R system on energy performance and progress toward emissions targets. Details have been submitted to SEAI for 2024 and are in the verification process, due to be

finalised by Q3 2025.

The Energy management section are working towards ISO50001 accreditation

The following is a summary of the verified figures from 2023.

- ▶ **Thermal energy** (oil, gas, etc.) decreased by 12% from 1,691 MWhrs in 2022 to 1,489 MWhrs in 2023.
- ▶ **Transport Fuels** increased by 1.3% from 6,197 MWhrs in 2022 to 6,281 MWhrs in 2023. Due to the roll-out of HVO fuels, it is expected that this figure will decrease significantly in 2024 figures.
- ▶ **Electricity consumption** decreased by 21% from 8,681 MWhrs to 6,870 MWhrs.



Overall, our energy consumption decreased from 16,570 MWhrs in 2022 to 14,640 MWhrs in 2023, a decrease of 12%.

In terms of energy efficiency, we are now using 46.3% less than our baseline year (2009), meaning we are on track to achieve our 50% reduction by 2030.

Our greenhouse gas emissions reduced from 1,697,631 kgCO₂ in 2022 to 1,661,155 kgCO₂ in 2023, a decrease of 2%

Overall, our greenhouse gas emissions have reduced from 1,931,083 in our baseline years (2016 – 2018 average) to 1,661,155 in 2023, a decrease of 14%.

Roscommon County Council began rolling out HVO fuels in 2024 which will significantly reduce our carbon emissions and accelerate our progress toward our 2030 target of 946,231 kgCO₂.

Current energy use and carbon emissions are stored for analysis in the Energy Elephant system. The charts below represents a snapshot of energy use and gives an indication of “gap-to-target” (note final figures for 2024 to be verified by SEAI). This gives an indicative progress of a 51% decrease in Carbon Emissions on the baseline year and shows that Roscommon County Council is currently on track to achieve this target.

3.3.1 Pathfinder

Roscommon County Council, in conjunction with the Midlands Energy Agency, are engaged with the SEAI Pathfinder project in a number of public buildings throughout the County.

Pathfinder projects for retrofitting Aras an Chontae, Roscommon Leisure Centre and Dillon House are all progressing well:

- ▶ Dillon house – nearing completion
- ▶ Aras an Chontae – Some works underway (e.g. retrofitting of LED

lighting). A contractor has been identified for additional energy retrofit works (e.g. Solar PV panel installation).

- ▶ Roscommon Leisure Centre – Integrated Design Team identified by tender competition. Detailed energy retrofit design works to commence in Q2 2025.



3.2 Case Study - Dillon House

The original structure of Dillon House was constructed circa 1780 and is of historical significance due to its association with the politically influential Dillon Family. It is a three-storey structure constructed with lime-rendered stone walls, rendered chimneys and a pitched roof.

Purchased by Roscommon County Council in 1990, renovations were carried out including a new roof, windows, doors and external painting. An extension to the ground floor was constructed in 1997 and consists of insulated cavity walls, a two-bay pitched roof with timber-framed roof-lights and double-glazed PVC windows.

The building is heated with two 40 kW oil fired boilers (SIM AR5) serving radiators throughout the building, split into two separate zones (i.e. the library on the ground floor and the offices on the upper floors). Oil consumption is measured using utility bills as there are no flowmeters installed on the boilers. Electricity is supplied to the entire building through a single connection. There are no sub-meters in the building, with utility bills being apportioned to tenants on a floor area basis.

Improvements underway include:

- Energy efficiency upgrades of the building to support Roscommon County Council's transition to net zero carbon emissions
- Prioritised and complete approach to non-domestic building retrofit, achieve a BER B and introduce a source of renewable heating.
- Achieve a minimum of BER B though phased, non-abortive works



Current Energy Use

Dillon House currently uses energy in the form of mains electricity and kerosene and is recorded on the Energy Elephant platform. The SI426 Energy Audit (2024) reported an annual mains electricity usage of 18,389 kWhrs/year over the period from 2018 to 2023.

The SI 426 Energy Audit reported a thermal (kerosene) energy use of 125,476 kWhrs. Billed volumes are used, and the approximate equivalent energy can be estimated taking a coefficient of 10.35 kWhrs/litre.

Progress to date

The project, entitled 'Alterations and Upgrade Works to Ballaghaderreen Public Library, Dillon House, Main St. Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon' progressed with the following project management structure:

Stage 1 - Feasibility, Scope and Preliminary Design

During feasibility investigations, it was discovered that the 2 No. oil-fired boilers were approaching the end of their service life. As the library was already closed to the public, it was not considered appropriate to replace the boilers with

alternative fossil fuel boilers and air-to-water heat pumps are considered the most appropriate renewable alternative, in tandem with building fabric upgrade to an appropriate specification to allow efficient deployment.

Stage 2 - Detailed Design & Specification

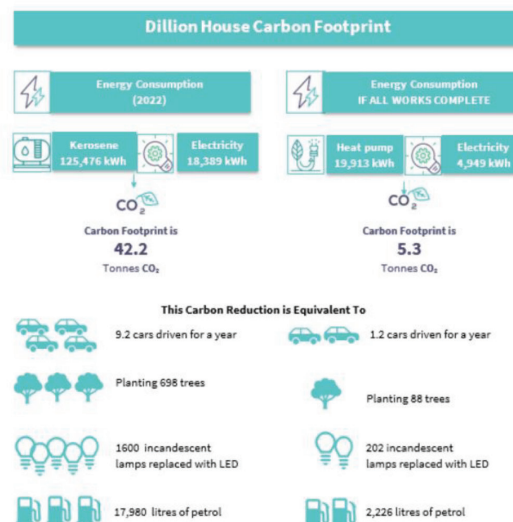
Detailed design drawings and specifications were prepared for tender during Stage 2. The outputs for stage 2 included:

A pre-works BER was carried out as part of Stage 2 by Midlands Energy Consultants, assessed the BER rating as E1 and predicted an annual energy use intensity of 511.82 kWh/m²/yr.

A DEC, carried out by South East Energy in November 2023 gave an energy rating of B2 and measured annual energy use intensity as 146.46 kWh/m²/yr.

Stage 3 - Procurement – Tendering, Evaluation and Recommendation for Award

The project was advertised on e-tenders in December 2023 and one valid tender was received from Mountain View Construction. This tender was assessed and deemed to be acceptable and Mountain View Construction were awarded the contract on 7th March 2024. The tendered sum was €449,230.00, ex-VAT. Of this, it was estimated that €222,850.00 related to energy upgrade costs (e.g. building fabric, mechanical and electrical works associated with heat-pump installation).



Stage 4 - Construction and Implementation

Stage 4 of the project commenced on 20th March 2024 minutes of which are included in and a number of ‘quick-win’ type opportunities were discussed among the project team at the outset.

Stage 4 of the project is currently underway and is expected to be completed by 1st April 2025.

Stage 5 - Handover of Works, Certification and Final Account

Stage 5 of the project will commence on satisfactory completion of Stage 4 (Substantial Completion). Stage 5 will include defects liability (snagging), preparation and handover of Operation and Maintenance Manuals (O&M Manuals), handover of Safety File, training, etc. Stage 5 is expected to commence in April 2025 and will continue to April 2026, during which time the building will continue to operate as normal.

3.3 Case Study - Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme (PLEEP)

The PLEEP is being rolled out nationally through three regional Centres and Roscommon County Council is working with Mayo County Council in the North West region. The benefits of the project fall into three main categories: climate, costs and quality.

LED lights use half the energy of traditional public lights, and allow for dimming at appropriate times, which can add a further 7% to 26% efficiency. A reduction in energy use means a reduction in harmful CO2 emissions.

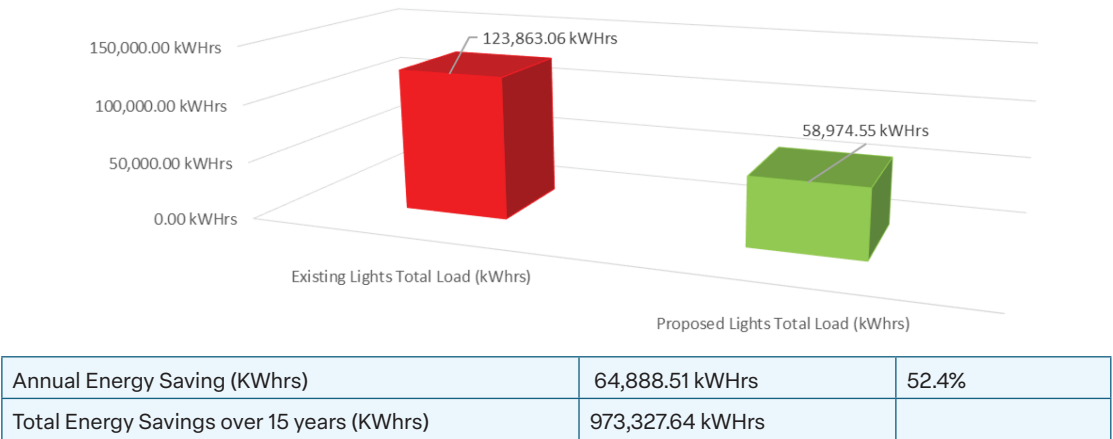
When energy use is reduced, energy costs are also reduced. Local authority energy costs will fall by an estimated 50%. Alongside this, LED bulbs last up to 20 years so it is estimated that maintenance costs associated with ongoing luminaire replacement will also reduce by 60%.

Advancements in LED technology also mean LED lights provide an improved visual environment, enhanced public safety and reduced light pollution. The regionalised approach of the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project

offers economies of scale, consistency in approach and standards and greater public sector efficiencies. The project also provides an opportunity to gather asset management information to better manage our public lighting network.

Progress to Date:

- Roscommon County Council are now at 83% LED in our public lighting stock.
- ▶ Total billed monthly energy consumption by our public lighting stock has decreased from 348,130 kWhrs in December 2017 (5% LEDs) to 216,507 kWhrs in December 2024 (81% LEDs), a decrease of 38%
- ▶ Total number of public lights in Roscommon increased from 6351 to 7880 in the same period.
- ▶ Mayo county council are progressing with a detailed asset survey of public lighting in the Connacht region, which will help with asset management going forward.



3.4 Case Study - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Roscommon County Council in conjunction with Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEVIs) have collaborated on the premise of a pilot project for the provision of an Electric Vehicle Charging Hub Scheme at Áras an Chontae, Roscommon. A block of sixteen standard existing car parking spaces have been selected as being at the optimal location for the charging hub.

The project involves:

- electric vehicle charging hub infrastructure – civil works with trenching, ducting, RC bases and plinths
- electric cabling and associated equipment

- control boxes and subsequent installation of electric vehicle chargers with all ancillary equipment and
- connection to customer substation / switchroom power source for the purpose of creating an electric vehicle
- charging hub for use by Roscommon County Council staff and the general public.

This pilot will be a template for progressing and accelerating the EV charging network within county Roscommon as it meets ZEVIs 'Universal Design' philosophy for ease of access to all charging equipment for everybody with varying levels of physical condition.



3.5 Mitigation (Emission Reduction & Energy Efficiency) Progress

The following table provides a summary of progress on achieving energy efficiency targets outlined above in the context of the actions contained in the LACAP.

Mitigation Actions

No.	Action Aim	Action Progress
BET 1	Ensure that all new Local Authority Buildings are designed to meet Net Zero Carbon using new innovative construction techniques, products, and processes. Identify a pilot building project to establish RCC as an exemplar of best practice.	This action is incorporated into the design and construction phase of relevant Council projects. The additional costs of this requirement should be considered as part of the development of national funding schemes.
BET 2	Implement prioritised SEAI Pathfinder projects in RCC including Aras an Chontae, Dillon House Library, Roscommon Leisure Centre, Roscommon Arts Centre and Roscommon Library and progress remaining buildings identified in Energy Audit process, prioritising significant energy users. Progress Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in support of energy efficient public lighting. Incorporate additional energy saving measures in consultation with local communities; having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European Sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.	The A&EM department are progressing prioritised pathfinder projects in conjunction with SEAI as outlined above. Under the PLEEP, RCC are now at 81% LED in public lighting stock. Total billed annual energy consumption has decreased from 3,572,807 in August 2017 to 1,846,962 in February 2025 (48%), while the total number of lights in the county increased by over 1500 (24%).
BET 3	Manage energy efficiency and vacancy levels in Local Authority housing stock in accordance with the Housing Strategy and national retrofit programme. Include energy awareness and management information in pre-tenancy training and to existing and prospective tenants as part of retrofits/energy upgrades where applicable; having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European Sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.	The Housing section continue the rollout of national programmes. Tenancy education programmes are carried out as a group in new estates showing how to maximise energy efficiency and with useful information on recycling, supported by a tailored welcome pack
BET 7	Review RCC fleet management and composition in the context of required emissions reductions and in accordance with the Reimagining Fleet strategy. Implement changes in line with recommendations. Provide training on fleet operation including emissions reducing measures and promote fleet sustainability.	Roscommon County Council began rolling out HVO fuels in 2024 which will significantly reduce our carbon emissions and accelerate our progress toward our 2030 target of 946,231 kgCO ₂ .

No.	Action Aim	Action Progress
BET 8	Investigate the potential for the extension of the EV and renewable CNG networks and provision of alternatives to the current diesel fuelled HGV fleet, having due regard to relevant environmental sensitivities and available grid/main capacity. RCC opposes the use of gas from fracked sources in the fuel mix.	RCC are engaging with ZEVI on the installation of EV charging facilities at Council facilities in accordance with the forthcoming EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy for the County
DZ 7	Target existing and proposed and/or new RCC residential developments to optimise energy efficiencies and carbon emissions reductions, including roll-out of energy management systems and smart meters to council owned social housing. Develop targeted education programmes for new technology users in effective energy management as part of pre-tenancy training in housing, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European Sites and biodiversity related sensitivities, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately protected and conserve heritage features.	Underway with Housing section – as per BET 3 above
DZ 10	RCC will utilise the ‘Gap to Target’ tool and the Building Pathfinder Programme to support Public Sector building retrofits and potential for renewable energy heat sources should be explored, including the use of renewable gas as well as district heating opportunities, to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions at public buildings, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European Sites and biodiversity related sensitivities, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately protected and conserve heritage features.	Gap-to- target progress as outlined above. Pathfinder projects as per BET 1 & 2. SEAI are in the process of developing a tailored Pathfinder project to address the potential of district heating. Roscommon County Council will engage with this process through the MEA
DZ 12	Engage with the Planning, Roads, Town Regeneration, Economic Development & Tourism and Capital Implementation Teams of RCC in the development, design and funding of town centre projects to reduce the need to travel in the urban area and to promote availability and uptake of public transport in support of a pedestrian-focussed town centre. Implement the design manual for Urban Roads and Streets in support of pedestrian priority zones and reduction of vehicular dominance in the town centre and residential areas. Promote the carrying out of development supported by this action in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European Sites and local air quality.	As per GL2 and BET 1. The CAU continually monitors initiatives across the organisation and externally through established networks to identify and implement projects and illustrate relationships to mainstream climate action. The CAU liaises with the various internal departments at a strategic level through the CAT but also at an operational level (eg. Biodiversity, Environment, Active Travel, A&EM, Community) these relationships are set to be formalised with the establishment of subcommittees as outlined at GL5 .
DZ 14	RCC will examine investment in electric vehicles (EVs), the potential for increased charging facilities and optimum location for these in association with local businesses and communities, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as heritage, biodiversity, European sites, sensitive human receptors, and available grid capacity.	In addition to measures carried out under GL7, RCC are engaging with ZEVI on the expansion of EV charging facilities at Council facilities in accordance with the forthcoming EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy for the County (see case study)
DZ 17	Develop a register of interested homeowners via EOI to facilitate economies of scale for retrofit projects to promote group access to discounts, green finance and available supports within the DZ area.	In progress – liaising with Roscommon Transition Town Sustainable Energy Community on the implementation of their Energy Masterplan

Combined Actions

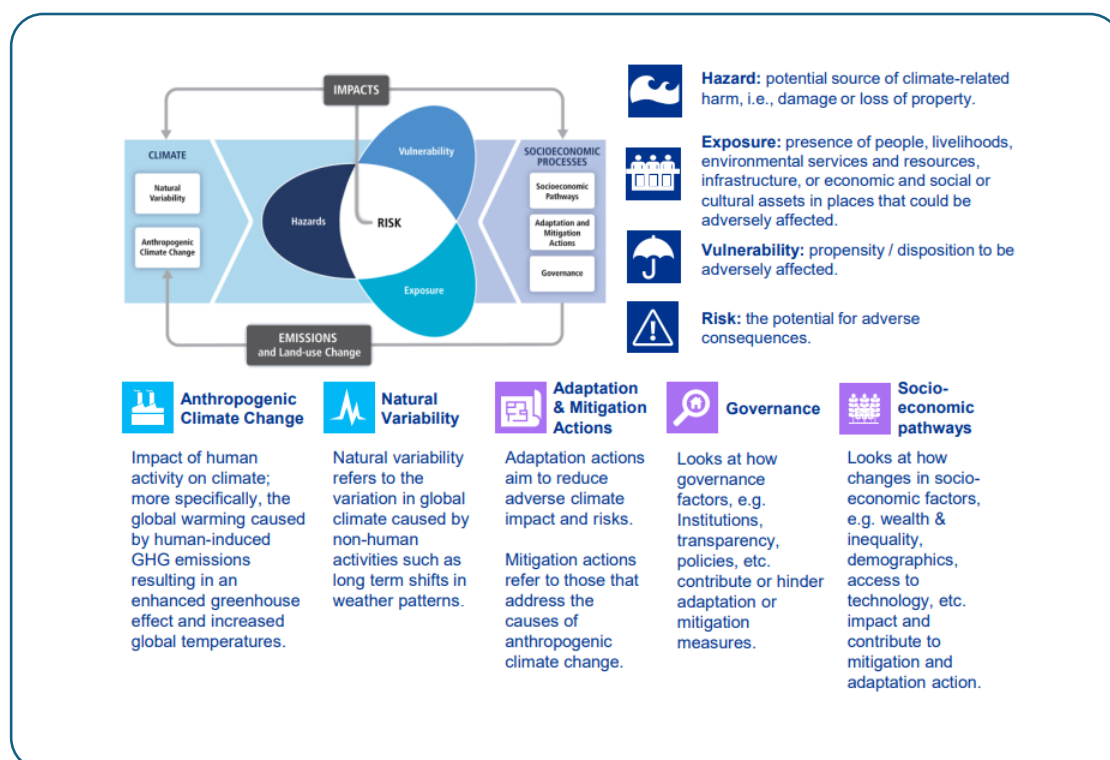
Action No.	Action Aim	Action Progress
BET 5	Utilise nature based solutions in tandem with biodiversity enhancement measures in RCC operations and the design and management of Roads projects and associated works and in accordance with the Green Infrastructure strategy	The CAU continue to engage with the relevant sections in relation to NBS incorporation in to various projects. The CAU launched the Local Biodiversity Action Fund in Loughnaneane park to showcase the application of NBS in tandem with biodiversity initiatives in the DZ in September 2024 and continue to develop projects in conjunction with economic development and external partners such as LAWPRO

4. CLIMATE ADAPTATION GOALS

4.1 CCRA Methodology

A Climate Change Risk Assessment was prepared in consultation with KPMG as part of the preparation of the Roscommon LACAP, in line with the requirements of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan

Guidelines [Technical Annex B: Climate Change Risk Assessment](#). The diagram below outlines the methodology followed, that identifies three key components of climate risk: hazard, exposure and vulnerability.



Source: Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, Technical Annex B, Figure 1. (page 5)

4.2 LA CAP Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)

Risks Identified

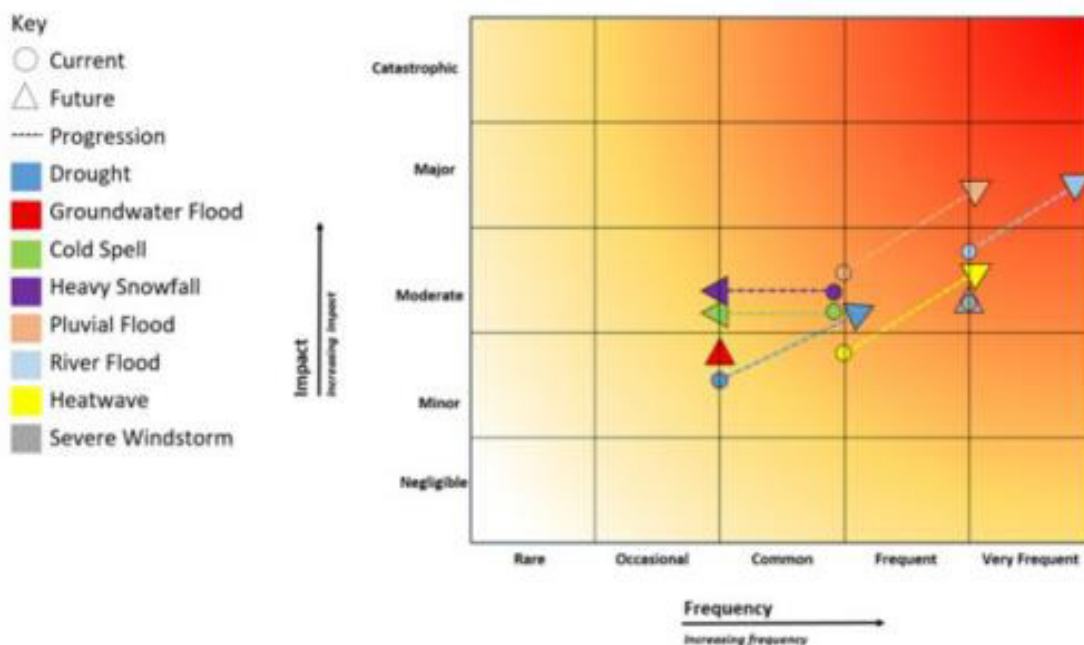
Current climate risks and impacts were identified through a process of reviewing the severity and frequency of past climate events. This initial assessment identified vulnerabilities of the County and local authority functions to the identified hazards. Anticipated Future climate risks and impacts were then extrapolated through the application of climate projections for the county and an

identification of potential impacts on local authority functions.















These current and future impacts are incorporated into the Climate Change Impact Matrix outlined in the chart below.

Higher risk areas relate to flooding and drought. The projected incidence of severe windstorm impacts remain static, however this may be reviewed at a national and local level in the aftermath of recent events such as storms Darragh and Éowyn in terms of intensity and impact.

Current and future Climate Change Impact Matrix, County Roscommon



The following tables illustrate the nature, extent and frequency of projected hazards, followed by the operations and functions that are anticipated to be impacted by each.

	Hazard	Projected Change	Future Frequency
	Heatwaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projections indicate an overall increase in average temperature (bottom of between 1.1 and 1.5 C for County Roscommon relative to the 1981 2000 period. Projections indicate that heatwaves will become more frequent (bottom middle) by mid century. 	Frequent 
	Droughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer rainfall is expected to reduce by between 6 and 12% in the future when compared with the baseline period of 1981 to 2000, contributing to potential drought conditions. 	Common 
	Cold Spell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a consequence of the increasing temperatures, a decrease in the number of frost days and ice days in the 2041 2060 future period when compared with the baseline period of 1981 to 2000, is projected. 	Occasional 
	Heavy Snowfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual snowfall in the region is projected to decrease substantially by the middle of the century. 	Occasional 
	Severe Windstorms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projections of storms are subject to a high level of uncertainty . By mid century, projections indicate that average wind speed will remain similar to those currently experienced but an increase in more intense storms which are currently rare events is projected. 	Frequent 
	Pluvial Flooding Fluvial Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projections indicate an increase in the frequency of heavy rainfall days (days with precipitation >30mm) for County Roscommon with some areas projected to see increase of up to 56%. This will likely result in an increased frequency of associated fluvial and pluvial flooding. 	Frequent 
	Groundwater Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projections of changes in groundwater flooding are currently not available, therefore there is uncertainty in the change in groundwater flooding frequency that can be expected. 	Occasional 

4.3 Organisational Risks and Hazards Identified

Hazards		
Impacted Area	Infrastructure / Asset Exposed (Risk / Vulnerability)	Description
Cultural Heritage	Flooding	Pluvial and river flooding events that were once considered extreme, will become more frequent. Consequently, cultural heritage assets will be more frequently exposed to flooding hazards, and higher flood levels will mean cultural heritage assets previously unaffected by flooding may become exposed resulting in short and long term damage to habitats/ environment by these hazards
Cultural Heritage	Heatwave/drought	Due to the potential increase in frequency of heatwave and drought events, degradation rates will potentially increase resulting in an increase in the impact on cultural heritage assets
Social	All	Due to the expected increase in the total and elderly population in County Roscommon there will be an increase in the number of people affected by social isolation during some hazard events
Social	Heatwave/drought	In response to heatwaves, there will be an increased use of blue/green spaces by the public putting increased pressure on local amenities e.g. littering, traffic problems
Financial	All	Due to the potential increase in frequency of hazard events and exposure across County Roscommon, there will be an associated increase in the actions the local authority takes before, during, and after an event. As a consequence, there will be an increase in the costs associated with dealing with the events , e.g. air conditioning, emergency service response, temporary and permanent flood defences, staff, training, and equipment purchase/maintenance
Reputational	All	Due to the potential increase in frequency of hazard events and exposure across County Roscommon during an event there will be an increasing demand/ pressure on services/resources potentially reducing the level of service delivery and harming the reputation of the local authority. For hazards which are existing long term issues in County Roscommon, e.g. river flooding, if the response to the increased frequency and severity events is deemed insufficient by the public, this may negatively impact on the reputation of the local authority.
Assets	All	Due to the expected increase in County Roscommon's population, there will be an increase in the associated households and infrastructure resulting in an increase in the number of assets exposed to hazard events

Assets	Heatwave/drought	Due to the expected increase in the frequency of heatwaves, road assets will be more regularly exposed to extreme temperatures and drought conditions with the potential for increased damage to road
Assets	Flooding	Pluvial, river and tidal flooding events that were once considered extreme, will become more frequent. This will increase damage in the areas already exposed to these hazards and also expose new areas and therefore assets that were previously unaffected
Health and wellbeing	All	Due to the expected increase in the elderly population in County Roscommon there will be a greater number of vulnerable people who are more sensitive to hazards, particularly heatwaves
Health and wellbeing	Flooding	Pluvial and river events, once considered extreme, will become more frequent. Consequently, people will be more frequently exposed to flooding hazards, and higher flood levels which will mean people previously unaffected by flooding may become exposed. This could impact on both physical and mental health and wellbeing
Environment	Heatwaves/drought	The potential increasing occurrence of heatwaves and drought conditions within County Roscommon will mean increased temperatures in water bodies and lower water levels which can decrease water quality resulting in short and long term impacts on the environment
Environment	All	Due to the potential increased frequency of exposure to hazards in County Roscommon, there could be an increase in the impact on environmental assets as the time/ability for the habitat/environment to recover is reduced
Environment	Flooding	Pluvial and river flooding events that were once considered extreme, will become more frequent. Consequently, environmental assets will be more frequently exposed to flooding hazards, and higher flood levels will mean environmental assets previously unaffected by flooding may become exposed resulting in short and long term damage to habitats/ environment by these hazards

4.4 Case Study

- Loughnaneane Park

Roscommon County Council commenced work on the 3-year Loughnaneane Park biodiversity project in early 2024, engaging with relevant stakeholders and incorporating their input into the park project, highlighting their priorities and incorporating these into evolving project development.

The Park project was formally launched at an event in Roscommon Town on Saturday 28th of September 2024 as part of Sustainable Development Goals Week, in conjunction with Roscommon Town Decarbonising Zone. Information on the project was distributed to the public, along with locally sourced wildflower seeds to promote engagement and awareness and involvement in local biodiversity. Hedgerows Ireland also hosted a hedgerow walk in the Park on the day illustrating the importance of appropriate hedgerow management and lack of intervention to support the establishment and maintenance of unique local habitats and ecosystems.

An initial biodiversity Baseline was carried out in late September 2024 in advance of initial tailored maintenance works to maximize natural regeneration in line with provisions of the “Maintenance of Public Open Spaces Guidelines”, a study that Roscommon County Council are engaged in with Maynooth University and Kildare County Council. This included the mowing of the wildflower area, by hand where required, to prevent damage to existing trees, and leaving this grass to lay and deposit seeds for a period of time to promote natural regeneration. Works



also included significant maintenance to the lough area to enhance biodiversity potential, promote public access and enhance visibility of local wildlife and general awareness of the project. These works are significant in their visual impact and have helped to increase awareness of the project and general public support.

Next steps for 2024/2025 include an augmented maintenance regime that will include plans for the eradication of invasive species, improvements to the pond area, including repair of the existing pump with consideration of renewable technologies as part of this process.

The ecological baseline will be repeated to measure progress in this regard. The text box contains bullet points summarise synergies with adaptation and mitigation actions contained with the LACAP.

Synergies with other projects and Climate Action initiatives

The Park area is very accessible to the town core, OPDs adjacent, playgrounds. The project aligns with Active Travel/regen/LSSIP projects planned and proposed in the wider area facilitating active mobility and incorporating NBS, while increasing the attractiveness of the town centre as a place to live, promoting compact urban growth.

Existing densely planted trees within the park – the emerging tree management strategy promotes healthy trees that grow to maturity and act as carbon sinks. The project applies these principles.

Many existing uses within park – project to be applied to portions while some areas remain highly managed. Proposal to gauge public sentiment, engagement and awareness at different stages of the three-year project.

Natural unmanaged hedgerows – development of ecosystems, also provide unique and interesting play areas – awareness and relevance of habitat to younger audiences

Existing hedgeline gappy and interspersed with non-native species – proposal to strengthen this (in

consultation with orienteering group) with native species such as guelder rose to enhance biodiversity and sequestration potential

Invasive species management plan to be prepared to address dogwood at particular sites

Pilot grassland management underway in accordance with biodiversity guidelines – cutting underway, grass to lie and allow seeds to fall before being removed to prevent nutrient enrichment. Similar strategy proposed for turlough area.

Turlough – provides for natural attenuation area for town, protected in LAP. Future adaptation potential in longer term. Habitats for wintering birds – viewing area to be repaired and improved – raising awareness and relevance

Sensory garden – proposed by Town team to enhance attractiveness of park and improve local amenity – located and designed to provide maximum benefit for biodiversity

Pond/Pump/Invasives – improve habitat and public perception. Potential use of renewable energy

4.5 Case Study

- EV WT Course

RCC successfully applied to the Just Transition Fund in 2024 for funding to facilitate the establishment of a series of low carbon training courses, which have been rolled out in partnership with the Galway and Roscommon Education Training Board.

There are two elements to the courses, both of which will go a long way to easing the transition away from fossil fuels in communities previously reliant on the fossil fuel sector, in the local context this principally mean ex-peat workers.

The first course, in which participants collaborated to construct a small scale wind turbine, will be started in December in the GRETb Youthreach facility in Roscommon. Ran over 4 weekends, the first graduates completed in the course in February 2025.

This wind turbine course will be replicated at various times throughout the funded period which will finish at the end of March 2026.

The first course of the second element of the training programme, the repair and maintenance of electric vehicles, is due to begin in early 2025.

This course, in addition to upskilling workers and addressing a skills shortage in the sector, will greatly enhance the uptake of electric vehicles. Initially the courses will be run in Roscommon with plans to expand to a council owned facility in Ballaghaderreen once refitting of the building is complete.





4.6 Case Study

– Rise and Thrive

The Rise and Thrive project is a unique approach to adaptation and resilience in the aftermath of flooding in the Lough Funshinagh area. The impact of the flooding at Lough Funshinagh and the wait for a resolution led to growing concern for the mental health and well-being of the community. Issues affecting many residents included anxiety, sleep deprivation and chronic stress affecting both individual physical and mental health. The aim of the 'Rise and Thrive' programme was to provide a rapid response to the community living in crisis with supportive tools to reduce and manage stress, sign post support services, explore psychological first aid and give lifestyle education to promote positive health and wellbeing to the community.

The initiative engaged through local elected representative Cllr Laurence Fallon and the local Flood Relief Committee to offer support in enhancing the wellbeing of the community. Healthy County Coordinator Aisling Dunne in turn built on these connections within the community.

The programme was broken into a workshop and workout format delivered

across two hours on four consecutive weeks. Week one was an introductory session which also signposted service referral pathways, the second week focused on the theme of resilience and the vital role of nutrition, stress management and strategies to thrive while week three looked at the importance of managing and maintaining well-being such as good sleeping patterns. The fourth and final week focused on renewal and the pathways from stress to strength and endurance, supporting recovery for people's mental health and well-being as well as the importance of maintaining community connections and the value of Social Prescribing in supporting Strength and Recovery

Sleep and stress management techniques as well as the mental health support package provided helped residents to cope with the psychological impacts of flooding, such as anxiety, depression, and social isolation.

Through the programme, there is a strong emphasis on supporting the community to move from 'survive' to 'thrive' mode through continuing liaison with the Healthy County Coordinator in developing ongoing interventions beyond the programme into the future.

4.7 Progress on CCRA Risks, Adaptation, Biodiversity and Resilience

The following actions outline where climate risks have been integrated into risk management, operational and budgetary frameworks, including funding secured and utilised towards carrying out adaptation actions.

Adaptation Actions

No.	Action Aim	Action Progress (where currently available)
GL3	Make Climate Action reporting a standing item at Council, MD and management meetings to maintain visibility, mainstream consideration and deliver on agreed actions	Climate Action has been integrated into these elements with the support of the MT and through the CAT
BET 6	Embed water conservation measures throughout all RCC buildings.	Ongoing in conjunction with A&EM
BET13	Continue the Community Climate Action Programme to identify, support and showcase locally based Climate Action initiatives in line with scheme guidelines/themes. Feed outcomes/results to upwards in support of national policy.	Phase 1 of CCAP rolled out with 15 projects and two cross border projects involving a further four groups. Phase 2 is expected to commence in Q3 of 2025
NEGI2	Establish holistic linkages between existing, planned and proposed amenity infrastructure and heritage assets within the county to enhance archaeological protection, biodiversity (wildlife corridors), flood resilience (ecosystem services) and increase public awareness (immersion in nature/heritage), whilst promoting the adoption nature-based solutions and SUDs as appropriate, avoidance of habitat fragmentation, and adherence to environmental protection requirements	As per BET 5, 11, 12 and NEGI1. The CAU are engaging with the heritage section on the development of targeted adaptation measures for heritage assets within the County.
NEGI9	Continue and expand the source protection programme as part of rural water operations. Incorporate the award-winning project into the Climate Action programme as a successful template for cooperative action between local authorities, communities and state agencies	The ongoing source protection scheme and its association with the NFGWS, enhances biodiversity, resilience and wellbeing
NEGI10	Implement the sustainable management practices for public open spaces report and guidelines in local authority operations with the aim of advocating for the elimination and avoidance of glyphosate-based products and promote education and awareness on the use of herbicides and pesticides to the public and local communities to protect biodiversity and water quality. Training regarding herbicides and pesticides promotes use that does not cause significant effects on the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European Sites Highlight danger of invasive species and develop internal and external educational resources on prevention and biodiversity-aware eradication. Ensure that the invasive species educational resource is developed by a competent ecology team.	The findings of this study to date are currently being applied on a pilot basis in the LBAF project in the DZ

CRT5	Support communities in the development of nature-based solutions in line with green infrastructure strategy and source protection guidance in place. RCC will collaborate with communities to strengthen local food security and promote equity and well-being through support for community gardens and allotments as appropriate.	Working through the CCAP to develop projects in the areas of sustainable food growing and maintenance of sustainable agricultural systems such as Farming Rathcroghan. Progressing NBS in tandem with Biodiversity enhancement in association with biodiversity section and LAWPRO
CRT6	Collate and act as a repository for evidence-based climate change forecasts and predictions at local level. Assess new findings and incorporate associated best practice into all operational areas	Engaging with CARO, incorporation of new information as available at a national level for incorporation in to local level monitoring and response
SRM5	Develop, enhance and maintain RCC climate risk monitoring systems.	Development of initial CCRVT to be updated in conjunction with SWERT
DZ4	Develop a climate change risk and vulnerability assessment against which proposed public and private development within the DZ can be proofed.	CCRV completed for initial plan to be refined in DZ implementation
DZ5	Prioritise nature based solutions in the execution of all development within the decarbonisation zone aligned with the National Implementation Strategy for Nature-Based Solutions for the management of rainwater and surface water run-off in urban areas, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality.	As per LBAF above

Combined Actions

No.	Action Aim	Action Progress (where currently available)
GL2	Engage with the existing range of community capacity building supports to progress Climate Action initiatives in a consolidated way, ensure that stakeholders can engage with support service providers, funding streams and tailored advice to develop, mobilise and deliver projects	The climate Action unit have engaged in an extensive range of communications throughout the county and with a range of sectors. These include attendance and networking with the PPN at bi-annual plenary sessions, supports to sustainable energy communities, presenting at community wetlands forum, roll-out of the climate action fund, collaboration with statutory undertakers such as Eirgrid, roll out of repair cafe in conjunction with EPA, working with Roscommon Tidy towns on SDG week, Global Rossie/ launch of decarbonising zone and LBAF, EV demonstration event, liaising with Comhairle na nOg, launch of LECP/Leader programme/LACAP as joint event to illustrate synergies across social, economic and community areas, working with Age Friendly Roscommon on the roll out of a climate action course for over 60's, offering support to local organisations on funding applications in the climate area such as Castlerea Tidy Towns/Towns trust, RWN on various funding streams and collaboration on events. The CAU are represented on the LEADER programme evaluation committee
GL6	Develop a targeted climate communication strategy within RCC to disseminate Climate Action information including progress on achieving targets, ongoing projects, successes and challenges to maintain profile and awareness, relate local action to global events and potential climate change scenarios to further mainstream the climate agenda	As per GL2 above. The CAU continually monitors initiatives across the organisation and externally through established networks to identify and implement mainstreaming initiatives and illustrate relationships to mainstream climate action, eg. Joint launch of LECP/LEADER programme and LACAP - this provided for an alignment of the various plans and programmes to illustrate the synergies between them to a broad and diverse audience. The CAU liaises with the various internal departments at a strategic level through the CAT but also at an operational level (eg. Biodiversity, Environment, Roads, A&EM, Community) these relationships are set to be formalised with the establishment of subcommittees as outlined at GL5 above.

BET5	Utilise nature based solutions in tandem with biodiversity enhancement measures in RCC operations and the design and management of Roads projects and associated works and in accordance with the Green Infrastructure strategy	The CAU continue to engage with the relevant sections in relation to NBS incorporation in to various projects. The CAU launched the LBAF in Loughnaneane park to showcase the application of NBS in tandem with biodiversity initiatives in the DZ in September 2024 and continue to develop projects in conjunction with economic development and external partners such as LAWPRO
NEGI4	Promote heritage, biodiversity and Climate Action awareness in the management and maintenance of Local Authority assets, landbank and properties, compile an inventory of heritage assets within Local Authority ownership and develop conservation/risk management plans as appropriate, including energy efficiency measures	As per NEGI 2 working with heritage on development of inventory and targeted training for owners of heritage assets in the area of energy efficiency
CRT1	Identify gaps in support for communities in achieving their climate ambition in the areas of placemaking, economic development and employment generation, agriculture, mobility, tourism and heritage, social enterprise, retail, commerce, industry, waste management and the circular economy and renewable energy development. Engage externally and internally to address these	As per GL2
CRT7	Identify, engage with and support communities most affected by the just transition process in Roscommon, including those employed in the former peat-based electricity generation and processing and associated peat related industry which has now ceased.	Progressing educational initiatives funded under JFT to target communities in transition. Also working with areas like Cloontuskert and Ballyleague under CCAF to enhance resilience and sustainability
DZ6	Implement the provisions of the Tree Management Strategy with a focus on native trees, in all RCC functional areas within the DZ to promote canopy health and expansion and enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity.	As per LBAF - GI strategy to be developed



5. DELIVERY ACROSS SERVICES

Many of the actions contained within the plan are operational within various departments throughout the Council, for example, the development of a Green procurement Strategy in 2024.

5.1 Social Housing retrofitting works carried out in 2024

Social housing retrofitting works carried out in 2024 were based on the 2023 funding to enable energy upgrade works under the Retrofit Programme. Retrofitting of building fabric, windows, doors and electrified air to water heat pump systems were the majority of works with a target of reaching a BER of B2 minimum. This increases energy efficiency while reducing emissions together with greater comfort and reduced household bills to assist the most vulnerable in society to transition to a net zero carbon economy.

5.2 Biodiversity and Natural Resources Protection, Enhancement and Restoration

Roscommon County Council secured a dedicated biodiversity officer in 2024, whose work programme includes the preparation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan which is currently in progress. The climate Action unit work closely with

biodiversity as there are many common and interlinked actions in both areas. Over the course of 2024, biodiversity and climate launched the Loughnaneane park local biodiversity action fund project (see case study) which will run up to the end of 2026 and has benefits across climate action, mitigation, biodiversity and overall quality of life within the town. (see Case study at Section 4.4)

In October 2024, the climate unit, in association with Eastern and Midlands CARO and the biodiversity officer hosted a national workshop on nature-based solutions in Aras an Chontae, with a site visit to the park, facilitated with the OPW. Presentations were also made by Clandillon Civil Consulting outlining nature-based solutions incorporated into active travel works planned at the golf links road in the town.

Workshop participants were guided on a short walk north from Aras and Chontae to Loughnaneane Park. This is a well-used facility in the centre of the DZ with a diverse range of spaces and activities used by a wide range of individuals and groups within and beyond the town. This central location reduces the need for motorised transport for amenity purposes. The park significantly contributes to quality of life within the core area, increasing its attractiveness as a place to

live and work, and thus promotes compact urban growth. RCC secured funding under the LBAF in support of biodiversity and awareness raising actions in the park over a three-year period up to 2026. Staff from RCC guided the group through these actions, including the following points of interest:

- Mature hedgerows with minimal intervention to promote biodiversity, application of principles contained within “guidelines on the management of public spaces for biodiversity” (Study in conjunction with Maynooth University, Kildare County Council and other associated CCs) and forthcoming tree management guidelines (prepared in conjunction with UCD and Laois, Westmeath and Offaly CCs).
- Planned removal of invasive species at critical points in the park and the strengthening of existing tree lines with native species to address gaps and enhance corridors for wildlife
- Altered management regime on wildflower meadow to promote native species growth and protect existing trees. Intervention to include hand cutting around trees and in inaccessible lough area, while leaving cut material on the ground for a period to promote natural reseeding.
- Position of lough area within the town as a natural NBS, protected in local plans
- Enhanced access to wildflower and wildlife viewing areas to create an immersive experience and increase awareness of the unique park ecosystem.
- Planned replacement of pump to pond with potential solar powered model
- OPW works to castle to facilitate greater public access and viewing area, further increasing awareness.
- Location of proposed sensory garden carefully chosen in consultation with stakeholders to ensure maximum benefit to users while maintaining integrity of biodiversity promotion measures.
- Contrast of highly managed areas with biodiversity enhancement areas to gauge future public response of the course of the project and inform future interventions.
- Appropriate relocation of Swift boxes to maximise effectiveness
- Potential installation of EV charging points at park access areas.



Various capacity building events were attended by the unit over the period, including engagement with local and national groups such as the Breeding Waders EIP, Cruinniu na nOg and the Irish wetlands forum.

5.3 Smarter Mobility and Active Travel (Sustainable Travel)

The climate action unit engage with Active Travel on a range of areas including NTA infrastructure provision workshops and input into the initial stages of proposed projects, particularly in the decarbonising zone of Roscommon town.

Roscommon County Council is committed to harnessing the transformative potential of sustainable mobility to achieve our Climate Action goals. Building on projects delivered since 2021, we continue to advance Active Travel initiatives across the county, focusing on high-impact urban areas.

Key projects include the L7055 Ardsallagh Woods Active Travel Project in Roscommon Town, a 1.35 km shared pedestrian/cycleway that promotes safer, sustainable travel options integrating nature-based solutions and sustainable drainage systems, and the strategic Roscommon Town Schools Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge Project. This bridge spans the Dublin-Westport railway line and will provide a vital link between local primary

and secondary schools. In Athlone West, the 6.0 km Bealnamullia Active Travel Scheme will deliver enhanced connectivity and promote sustainable commuting.

Roscommon County Council continues to deliver projects under the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme which aims to improve safety, accessibility, and sustainability for children traveling to and from school by promoting walking and cycling. Led by the NTA in partnership with An Taisce and Local Authorities the programme funds traffic-calming measures, upgraded crossings, footpaths, and cycle lanes. Four projects were completed in 2024 at Carrick N.S., Ballinlough, St. Paul's N.S., Castlerea, St. Joseph's N.S. and Coláiste Chiaráin, Summerhill with a further four projects at various stages of delivery.

Additionally, Roscommon County Council are collaborating with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Local Link on the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme, which aims to modernise public bus infrastructure and services throughout the county. Together, these projects reflect our commitment to creating a more sustainable, accessible, and connected Roscommon.



Over the course of 2024, EV showcases were held, initially for Council Staff and then publicly at the decarbonising zone launch by the climate action unit. These were well attended, with a wide range of vehicles available to view and provided the opportunity for all to engage with the concept with access to detailed information from industry experts.

The climate unit, in conjunction with roads and assets & energy management are engaged with ZEV for the provision of additional EV charging points at nine public buildings and facilities throughout the County (See also case study) to further increase the viability and promote enhanced uptake of EV driving throughout the County.

5.4 Enhanced Public Realm and Regeneration, Green Enterprise and Economic Development

There is an ongoing programme of regeneration throughout the County that promote attractiveness and liveability of town and village centres, enhancing the viability of sustainable transport and promoting compact growth and efficient use of infrastructure. The Economic development section have secured a range of funding for projects across the RRDF, URDF and EU JTF in this regard.

Strand 3 of the URDF is involved in the reactivation of derelict properties in

Roscommon town, which is a significant in the progression of a number of DZ actions. There are seven properties approved for funding, of which three have been activated and two are in process in process.

A wide range of regeneration, tourism and amenity projects are underway that seek to secure compact growth, enhanced sustainable mobility and protection and enhancement of biodiversity in their execution and ongoing operation.

The LEO administer a number of funding streams that seek to enhance sustainability of Enterprise within the County. The green for business fund received and approved 24 applications, while the energy efficiency grant received 11 applications. The team regularly hold public communication events and clinics to promote uptake of these initiatives with business owners throughout the County

**SMALL CHANGES.
BIG IMPACT.**



5.5 Water Quality and Resource Management

The Section 4 Discharge Licencing is operated by the Environment Department in accordance with Section 4 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, as amended in 1990. Every application is assessed individually, and conditions are imposed to ensure a trade effluent is treated and controlled in a manner that does not negatively impact on water quality. Each discharge licence is tailored and takes into account the nature of the process/activity which produces the trade effluent. Emission Limit Values (ELV's) are imposed which must be achieved to ensure there are no negative impacts on Water Quality (ELV's relate to discharge volumes, biological parameters, chemical parameters etc.). Section 4 licensing process considers climate change related risks.

The Environment Department are involved in a range of activities (farm inspections/ domestic wastewater treatment system inspections) and work with a number of external agencies (EPA, LAWPRO, etc.) in a catchment-based approach to the protection and restoration of water quality under the Water Action Plan 2024 (3rd cycle River Basin which was published in late 2024).

An element of farm inspections is to check that farmers are maintaining the necessary buffer zones adjacent to water courses to prevent sediment, nutrients and pesticides entering water courses and negatively impacting on water quality.

RCC Environment Department carry out farm inspections in the event we become aware of or receive complaints about the spreading of slurry or the application of chemical fertilisers during the prohibited periods (closed season) each year. The elements above are in accordance with actions NEGI 9 and CRT 1 of the LACAP.

There are 25 Priority Areas of Action (PAAs – listed in table below) that are either within or extend into Roscommon County and these are areas where work to restore and protect waterbodies is being focused. [Taking Action - Catchments.ie - Catchments.ie / Priority Areas for Action - Local Authority Water Programme](#)

LAWPRO is the lead organisation on many of these PAAs (Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 of the River Basin Management Plan/Water Action Plan) within Roscommon. LAWPRO carries out desktop studies, water quality assessments and provides referrals to relevant stakeholders in the PAAs within which it works.

PRIORITY AREAS OF ACTION IN ROSCOMMON

	NAME	CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	LEAD_ORGANISATION
1	Cloonlavis Glore	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
2	Lung	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
3	Smaghraan	Restoration	LA Areas for Restoration Local Authorities	Roscommon County Council
4	Feorish (Ballyfarnon)	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
5	Jiggy Hind	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
6	Island	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
7	Lough Gara	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
8	Lower Suck	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
9	Tulsk	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
10	Owengarve Charlestown	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
11	Sinking and Upper Clare (Galway)	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
12	Suck_Castlestrange GWS	Restoration	Public Health Areas for Restoration	NFGWS
13	Suck_Glinsk Creggs GWS	Protection	Public Health Areas for Protection	NFGWS
14	Derryhippoo	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
15	Ballydangan	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
16	Clooneigh	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
17	Lough Key	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
18	Cross (Roscommon)	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
19	Carricknabraher	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
20	Upper Suck	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
21	Lough Rinn Forbes	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
22	Lough Allen	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
23	Lough Arrow	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
24	Killukin Shannon	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO
25	Owenmore (Sligo)	Restoration	Prioritised Areas for Action LAWPRO	LAWPRO

Local community or voluntary groups can now apply for a Community Water Development Fund (CWDF) LAWPRO grant to deliver a project in 2024. This Fund helps local communities deliver projects and initiatives that enhance the local water environment, delivering multiple benefits

for water quality, biodiversity and climate action, including restoration/habitat conservation/nature-based catchment solutions. The table below outlines successful awardees from 2024.

Applicant	Project title	County of project	Grant awarded
Mount Allen Residents Association	Arigna River Bank Management.	Roscommon	€1,500
Kilteevan Tidy Towns	Clooneigh River Bank Stabilisation Study.	Roscommon	€7,000
Ballyleague Tidy Towns / Village Renewal	Queen Maebh Statue	Roscommon	€600

Roscommon County Council have also collaborated with LAWPRO on the submission of an application for EU funding for the development of a community focused nature-based solutions study for urban, village and rural areas in the County.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVATION

The following section gives a brief overview of the community engagement initiatives underway in relation to Climate, both by the climate action unit and throughout RCC

- Community Climate Action Programme Supported Projects and Initiatives are addressed at Section 6.1
- Just Transition – EV/WT course case study set out at Section 4.5

Environmental Awareness officer

Working within the environment section, the Environmental Awareness officer carried out a suite of engagement and capacity building initiatives related to climate action and biodiversity over the course of 2024. These include:

- National Tree Week
- Green schools programme
- Greener spaces competition
- Initiatives around food waste and segregation
- Green Business Hubs

Greener Spaces Competition

The greener spaces competition was organised by the Roscommon County Councils Environment Department to provide Community Groups and Schools with an opportunity to highlight their efforts in enhancing an outdoor space. The awards recognise the work being done by Community Groups

and Schools across the County to protect our environment, use resources with more care and develop sustainable communities.

ANOTHER TURN REPAIR CAFÉ



Repair Cafe

Roscommon County Council were awarded funding from the Environmental Protection Agency to provide the tools and other equipment necessary for running repair cafés by community groups and other interested parties at any suitable venue throughout the county. Council will also be partnering with our neighbouring counties to enable adjoining communities to run their own repair cafés. The equipment includes such things as sewing machines, bike stands and power tools so that old clothes, rusty bicycles and worn furniture can be brought back to life and will also be available for members of Roscommon Library to borrow throughout the year.



Climate Conversations for over 60s

Jacinta Barrins, an established Climate Action Activist, developed a climate action course for over 60s which was rolled out in Roscommon County Council in early 2024.

This consisted of a series of well attended 2-hour sessions over the course of 8 weeks where participants agreed on measurable climate actions that they would implement over the duration of the course.

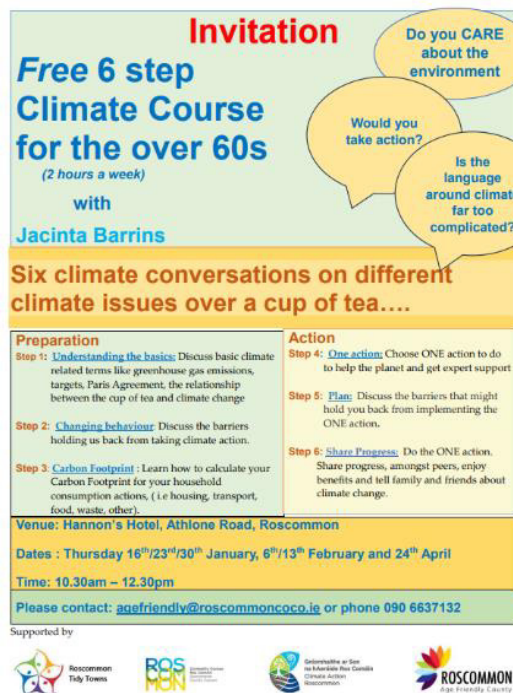
Run in conjunction with Age Friendly Roscommon and the climate unit, the course provided information on climate friendly nutrition, reuse of food waste, waste segregation and composting regenerative farming, biodiversity and available retrofitting grants.

Sustainable Energy Communities

In partnership with SEAI mentors, the climate action unit continues to promote the development of sustainable energy communities in the County through providing bridge finance towards the development of energy masterplans.

The Council will then continue to engage with the communities on the implementation of these plans in support of the Actions contained within the LACAP. Roscommon Transition Town SEC have recently completed an energy masterplan to be launched in March.

This represents a significant step forward in mobilising community action in support of decarbonising zone actions.



Invitation

Free 6 step Climate Course for the over 60s
(2 hours a week)
with **Jacinta Barrins**

Do you CARE about the environment?
Would you take action?
Is the language around climate far too complicated?

Six climate conversations on different climate issues over a cup of tea....

Preparation	Action
Step 1: Understanding the basics: Discuss basic climate related terms like greenhouse gas emissions, targets, Paris Agreement, the relationship between the cup of tea and climate change	Step 4: One action: Choose ONE action to do to help the planet and get expert support
Step 2: Changing behaviour: Discuss the barriers holding us back from taking climate action.	Step 5: Plan: Discuss the barriers that might hold you back from implementing the ONE action.
Step 3: Carbon Footprint: Learn how to calculate your Carbon Footprint for your household consumption actions, (i.e. housing, transport, food, waste, other).	Step 6: Share Progress: Do the ONE action. Share progress, amongst peers, enjoy benefits and tell family and friends about climate change.

Venue: Hannon's Hotel, Athlone Road, Roscommon

Dates: Thursday 16th/23rd/30th January, 6th/13th February and 24th April

Time: 10.30am – 12.30pm

Please contact: agefriendly@roscommoncoco.ie or phone 090 6637132

Supported by

Roscommon Tidy Towns, ROS MHN, Gníomhaíthe ar Son na hAeráide Ros Comáin Climate Action Roscommon, ROSCOMMON Age Friendly County

Community

The climate action unit work closely with the community section in the implementation of common actions across climate, environment and biodiversity, promoting community resilience and quality of life as contained in the LECP.

In addition, the climate section support the work of the public participation network, attending plenary sessions and utilising the network to build capacity and engagement on climate matters of community interest. The Climate Action Unit also give presentations and engage in other activities with groups such as Comhairle na nÓg and Teagasc and at events such as Cruinniú na nÓg.

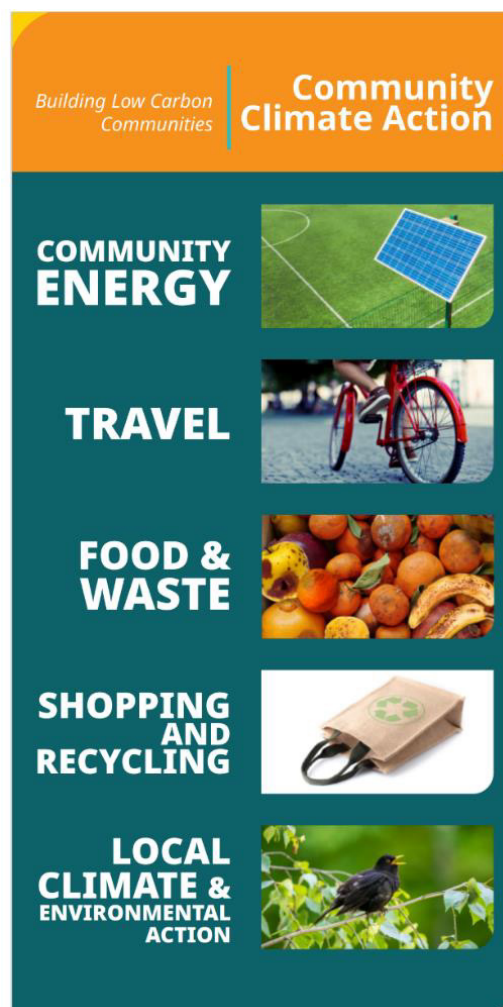
The climate unit have also worked with the GRETB on the development and operation of climate related courses over the 2024/2025 calendar.

6.1 Community Climate Action Programme

Roscommon County Council secured €402,000 for 15 projects under the Community Climate Action Programme Stand 1 and an additional €118,000 to 2 further projects under Strand 1a – a Roscommon based project with a Northern Ireland partner.

Progress is ongoing, with three projects completed to date in the areas of solar PV which will boost renewable energy use in the community sector while reducing energy costs. A further six projects are in an advanced state of completion and these range from energy efficiency measures in community facilities and equipment to biodiversity planting and circular economy initiatives. The climate Action unit maintains close contact with the groups and DECC to align the objectives of the fund and ensure its implementation.

The second phase of the programme, with an additional allocation of €402,000 for Stand 1 projects (plus additional allocation for Strand 1A where applicable, is anticipated to launch in Q3 of 2025. This will be preceded by a comprehensive communications and information campaign targeting local communities.



6.2 Promoting and Supporting Delivery of DZ Objectives

Tables and case studies outlined at sections 3 & 4 address actions to support the delivery of Roscommon Town decarbonising zone, formally launched by the Roscommon County Council Cathoirleach at a public event in the Town Square in September 2024 in conjunction with Roscommon tidy Towns Global Rossie diaspora event.

Held during sustainable development goal week, a wide range of climate related activities took place on the day, including

- Local Biodiversity fund – Loughnaneane park project launch and information
- Breeding waders EIP, Bat Society, Traditional Crafts, CycleUp stands and presentations
- Environment department – recycling information
- Sports Partnership cycling demonstration
- Hedgerow information walk



7. CONCLUSIONS

This initial report on the implementation of the Climate Action plan outlines the ongoing work of Roscommon County Council in securing climate actions in support of national and global targets, while working closely with local communities. Engagement to date illustrates the need to recognise the work of all departments within the organisation and how these contribute to climate goals and the intangible successes within community projects throughout the County that firmly embed climate awareness and promote lasting behavioural change.

Climate action has been embedded into the 2024-2029 Corporate Plan and will form part of the monitoring and reporting

process, including the progress on achieving sustainable development goals over the period.

This first annual report on LACAP implementation illustrates that progress on many actions has been swift, however, some actions require input and funding commitment on a national level to progress further. Roscommon County Council continue to engage with the relevant fora and working groups sectorally and at a national level to finalise targets, indicators and training programmes in support of identified ambitions and to reflect the signed service level agreement between Roscommon County Council and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for 2023-2028.

