

County Roscommon Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Climate Action Unit
Roscommon County
Council

January 2024



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Gníomhaithe ar Son
na hAeráide Ros Comáin
Climate Action
Roscommon



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland





Chief Executive



As we all now know, climate change is the most significant and serious challenge our world faces with social, economic and life changing impacts of enormous proportions for this and future generations if we don't immediately respond on a worldwide scale. Global, EU and national policy makers have been moving apace, setting binding targets on all sectors with a particular emphasis on the Public Sector and Local Authorities, who by 2030 must achieve a reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions of 51% and increase energy efficiency by 50%.

Roscommon County Council, through the leadership of its elected members, commitment of staff and the strong support and participation of its citizens, has developed a Roscommon Climate Action Plan with an associated suite of Actions to deliver a robust and comprehensive response to the climate challenge facing us all over the next five years and beyond.

The plan sets out the response of Roscommon County Council to the Climate Challenge through its own operations and areas of influence, while providing support and nurturing community initiatives to adapt to and mitigate against climate change.

In particular, the need to affect a Just Transition, that protects the most vulnerable in our society while moving toward carbon neutrality, remains paramount and embedded throughout the actions identified herein.

Roscommon County Council will continue to engage with agencies and departments nationally to ensure that our county is provided with the tools and resources required to match its ambition, and that of its citizens, in the transition to a resilient, carbon-neutral society.

We all have to be leaders in Roscommon when it comes to climate change and this plan is setting the local authority, our communities, businesses and citizens in the correct stead to face this urgent local and global challenge.

Shane Tiernan
Chief Executive
Roscommon County Council

Cathaoirleach



Unequivocal scientific evidence of the human role in accelerated climate change has emerged that provides the setting for this LACAP, adopted by RCC in January 2022. The members have carefully considered this response, incorporating the valued input of its citizens, in support of a sustainable and resilient future. Set within the corporate policy framework, this statutory plan will remain in force for five years and recognizes the challenges that we as a society face over this period.

The potential opportunities that climate action presents are also highlighted for communities in this unprecedented transition to a less carbon dependent existence. Following on from our experience in the pandemic, where heretofore unimaginable contributions were made by all sectors of society in support of the common good, the precedent was set for thinking outside the box. The actions in this plan focus on finding new solutions and pave the way for innovation, collaboration, imagination and creativity in overcoming significant challenges. Communities across the County have shown that they are mobilized and ready to act in support of climate initiatives. The elected Members of Roscommon County Council present this Co. Roscommon Climate Action Plan to build on this positivity and channel it to address our obligations in support of the national climate objective and the long-term social, environmental and economic well-being of County Roscommon.

Cllr. John Keogh
Cathaoirleach

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AHBs	Approved Housing Bodies	LAWPRO	Local Authority Water Program Office
BnM	Bord na Mona	LEO	Local Enterprise Office
CARO	Climate Action Regional office	LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
CSO	Central Statistics Office	MEA	Midland Energy Agency
CCMA	City and County Managers Association	NDP	National Development Plan
CDP	County Development Plan	NFGWS	National Federation of Group Water Schemes
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	NPF	National Planning Framework
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
DHPLG	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	NTA	National Transport Authority
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development	NWRA	North Western Regional Assembly
DTTAS	Department of Transport	OGP	Office of Government Procurement
EMRA	Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly	OPW	Office of Public Works
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	PPN	Public Participation Network
ESB	Electricity Supply Board	RCC	Roscommon County Council
GNI	Gas Networks Ireland	RLP	Roscommon Leader Partnership
GRETB	Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board	RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
H&S	Health and Safety	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals (UN)
HR	Human Resources	SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland
HAS	Health and Safety Authority	SECs	Sustainable Energy Communities
IPA	Institute of Public Administration	TFI	Transport for Ireland
IrBEA	Irish Bioenergy Association	TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
IWEA	Irish Wind Energy Association	UCD	University College Dublin
JTF	Just Transition Fund	UN	United Nations
LAP	Local Area Plan	WDC	Western Development Commission
LASNTG	Local Authority Services National Training Group	ZEVI	Zero Emission Vehicle Ireland

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Roscommon County Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) is prepared under the Climate Action and Low-carbon development (Amendment) Act 2021 in support of the National Climate objective; “*transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy*”. The LACAP will pursue locally based actions to adapt to a changing climate and reduce emissions towards making Roscommon County a more sustainable place to live, work and visit. Adopted in January 2024 by the elected members, the plan is a statutory document and will remain in force for five years.

This LACAP has taken into full consideration international and national climate change policy and legislation as well as the most up-to-date knowledge on current levels of climate change, as well as its impacts and projections for County Roscommon into the future. In showing the outcome of this process, this Climate Action Plan is structured into the following chapters.

Climate Action Plan Structure Chapters

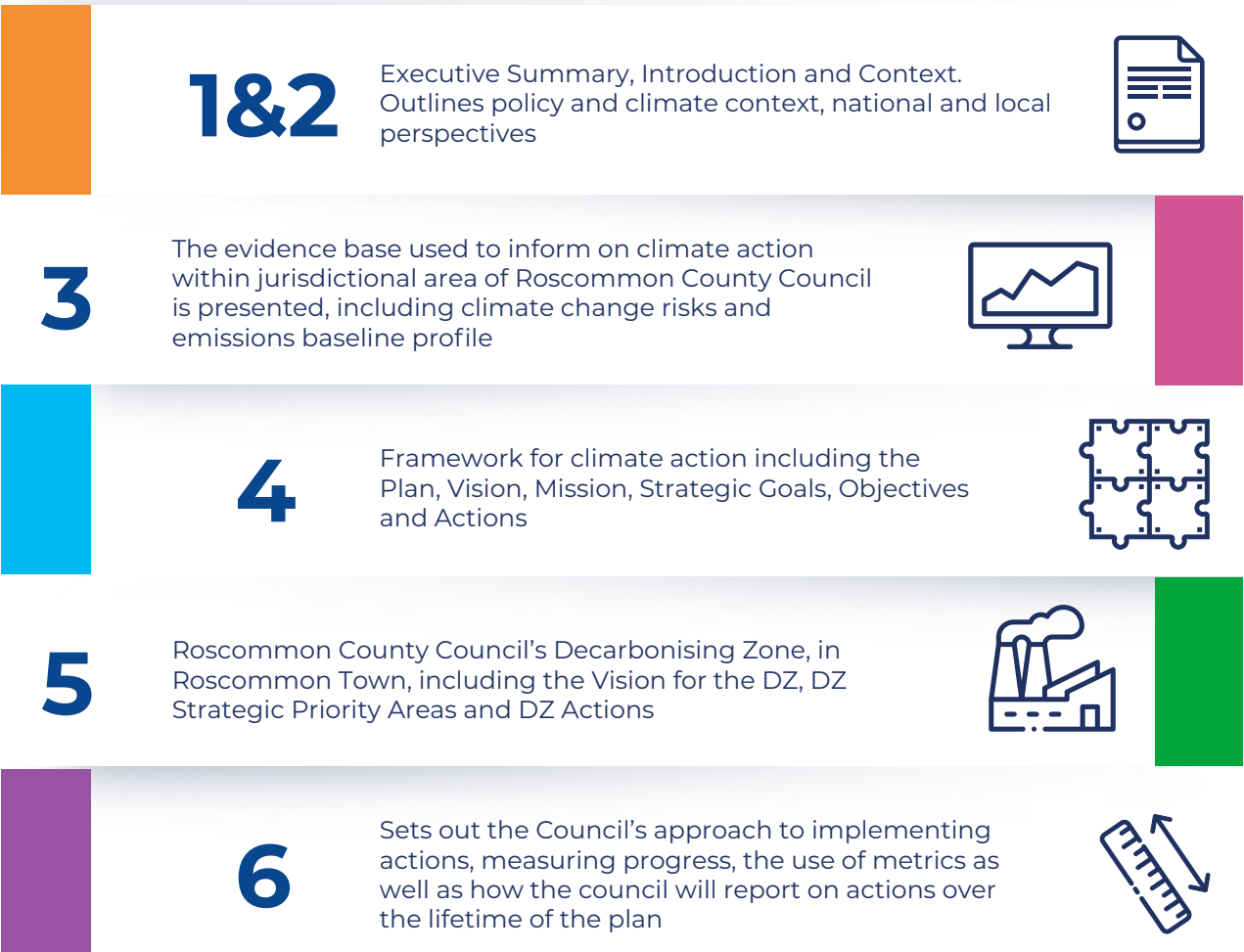


Figure 1.1 Climate Action Plan Structure – Chapters

Chapter Two outlines the international, EU and National legislation and policy within which the plan is set, including the level of public awareness around climate change nationally and locally, and the need to act. The plan vision and mission are articulated, upon which the goals, objectives and actions that implement the plan are based.

The scope of the plan is defined, divided into four areas;

- ▶ where the council has full control (own operations and functions),
- ▶ where it has influence (policy and regulation),
- ▶ where it can engage with stakeholders to build Climate Action capacity, and;
- ▶ where it can act as a coordination mechanism across communities, agencies and sectors to mobilise Climate Action.

The challenge of climate change is explored in the context of global events and their relationship to local action. Public engagement to date and proposed future engagement are addressed, including training and national initiatives that align with the action plan process.

Case studies illustrate the wide range of existing community Climate Action projects in County Roscommon, indicating the importance of sustainability and the willingness to engage on a local basis.

Chapter three addresses the evidence base. Roscommon County Council engaged consultants to prepare a climate change risk assessment for the County to inform adaptation requirements in action development. The key points are summarized in figure 2.6.

A baseline emissions inventory was carried out for the County to estimate carbon emissions and their sources from 2018 starting point, from which progress will be measured towards the 2030 target of 51% carbon emissions reduction by 2030 and, ultimate carbon neutrality by 2050. This baseline shows, in line with other rural counties, that the vast majority of emissions are agriculturally based, followed by transport, land-use/land-use change and residential. These studies indicate priority action areas that inform the actions that follow.

The framework of Climate Actions are set out in **Chapter Four**. Based on the evidence at Chapter Three and the scope of the plan set out at Chapter two, Goals, objectives and resulting enabling actions are set out under five themes:



Governance and leadership



Built Environment and Transport



Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure



Communities; Resilience and Transition



Sustainable resource management

The resulting actions set out detailed initiatives to address adaptation, mitigation or both, the lead section within the Council with responsibility for the action, the potential partner organisations and the anticipated timeframe for action completion.

The Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) is set out in detail in **Chapter five**. The designated DZ is Roscommon town, largely reflecting the current Local Area Plan boundary. The purpose of the DZ is to develop an area within which spatially based actions, projects and initiatives can be developed, implemented and their effects measured in support of focused Climate Action, essentially acting as a testbed for pilot projects, where results and learning can be applied at a broader level. A specific baseline emission inventory was prepared for the town to facilitate this process, showing that the commercial and public sector are the source of most emissions, followed by the transport and residential sectors. Significant emissions reduction initiatives are underway for public buildings and operations and the actions prepared under this section reflect the need for action in other significant sectors.

Chapter six sets out reporting and implementation requirements at all levels and mechanisms to be developed to monitor progress, incorporating SEA and AA processes.

2. INTRODUCTION

This LACAP is set against a backdrop of global severe weather events and associated impacts causing health impacts and displacing populations, potentially rendering parts of the earth uninhabitable, heading toward a tipping point for the future stability of the climate system as we know it. National emergencies were declared in relation to Climate Change and Biodiversity in 2019, initiating citizen's assemblies in these areas and creating an unprecedented national dialogue. Roscommon County Council declared a climate and Biodiversity Emergency in June 2019.

The challenge remains to relate the shocking global imagery of recent extreme weather events to our local situation, recognise that the climate emergency exists and spur action and intervention at local level, to provide encouragement and hope that we all can play our part in maintaining a habitable planet – that **what we do counts**.

This plan seeks to identify our current situation, where we sit at a county level in terms of climate risks, potential future impacts and how we can address these (**Adaptation**). The plans also identifies a Carbon emissions baseline from which we can project forward and monitor our progress in reducing the root causes of climate change (**Mitigation**) in line with nationally identified targets.

The Plan also aims to embed Climate Action throughout RCC functions and operations and thread consciousness throughout the daily lives of the citizens of the County, building capacity to nurture and encourage meaningful action.

Climate Change Mitigation relates to changing how we live, move, consume and manufacture, so as to reduce and/or eliminate the production of harmful greenhouse gases, it also includes how we best use our land;

Climate Change Adaptation refers to dealing with the impacts of climate change and involves taking practical actions to manage risks, protect communities and strengthen the resilience of the economy (e.g. from flooding, extreme weather events etc.).

Despite its rural nature and the infrequency (but intensifying nature) of direct climate/transition impacts, attitudes and opinions in County Roscommon relating to climate remain closely aligned with those held nationally¹ across the following areas:

- ▶ Concern in relation to climate change, an acknowledgement that this process will harm individuals and their families, particularly future generations, and a high level of awareness of the likely impacts in the short to medium term
- ▶ That taking action will create opportunities in the economy and enhance quality of life
- ▶ A sense of responsibility and that citizens should do more, also that Climate Action should be a government priority
- ▶ That a fossil fuel tax should be introduced to support workers in the transition to a carbon-neutral economy, to develop clean energy and more sustainable transport infrastructure.

In this regard, Figure 2.1 ([Climate Opinion Maps | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](#)) illustrates that the people of County Roscommon are among the most concerned about climate change nationally in the context of the issues outlined above.

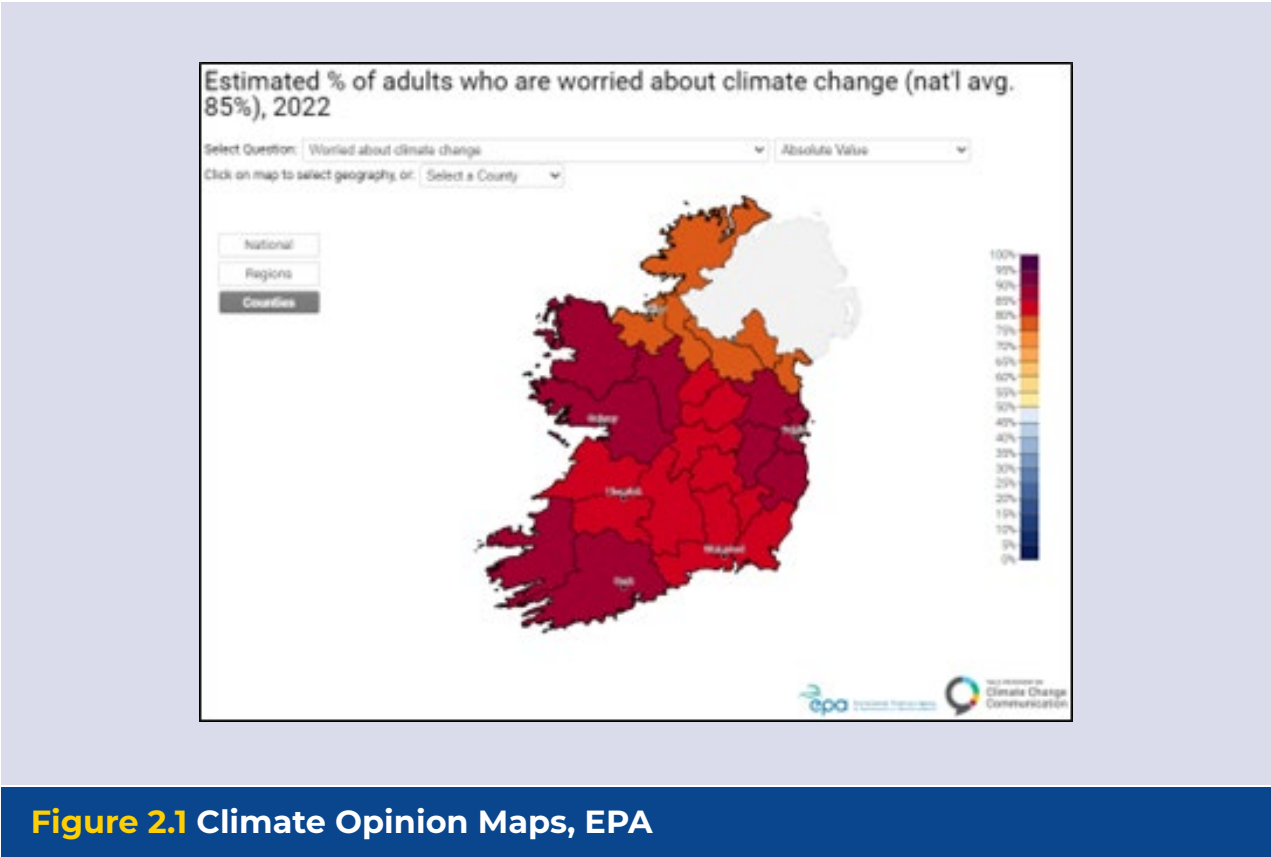


Figure 2.1 Climate Opinion Maps, EPA

¹ EPA *Climate change in the Irish Mind 2022* in conjunction with Yale programme on Climate Communication, July 2021 www.epa.ie

Nationally and at a County level, people are unlikely to join a Climate Action campaign (18-19%), however there appears to be broad consensus that climate change is happening, has a human cause and that most consider themselves to have considerable knowledge on Climate change, a fact reflected in the submissions received at the pre-draft plan and draft preparation stages of the Plan (see section 2.3.3).

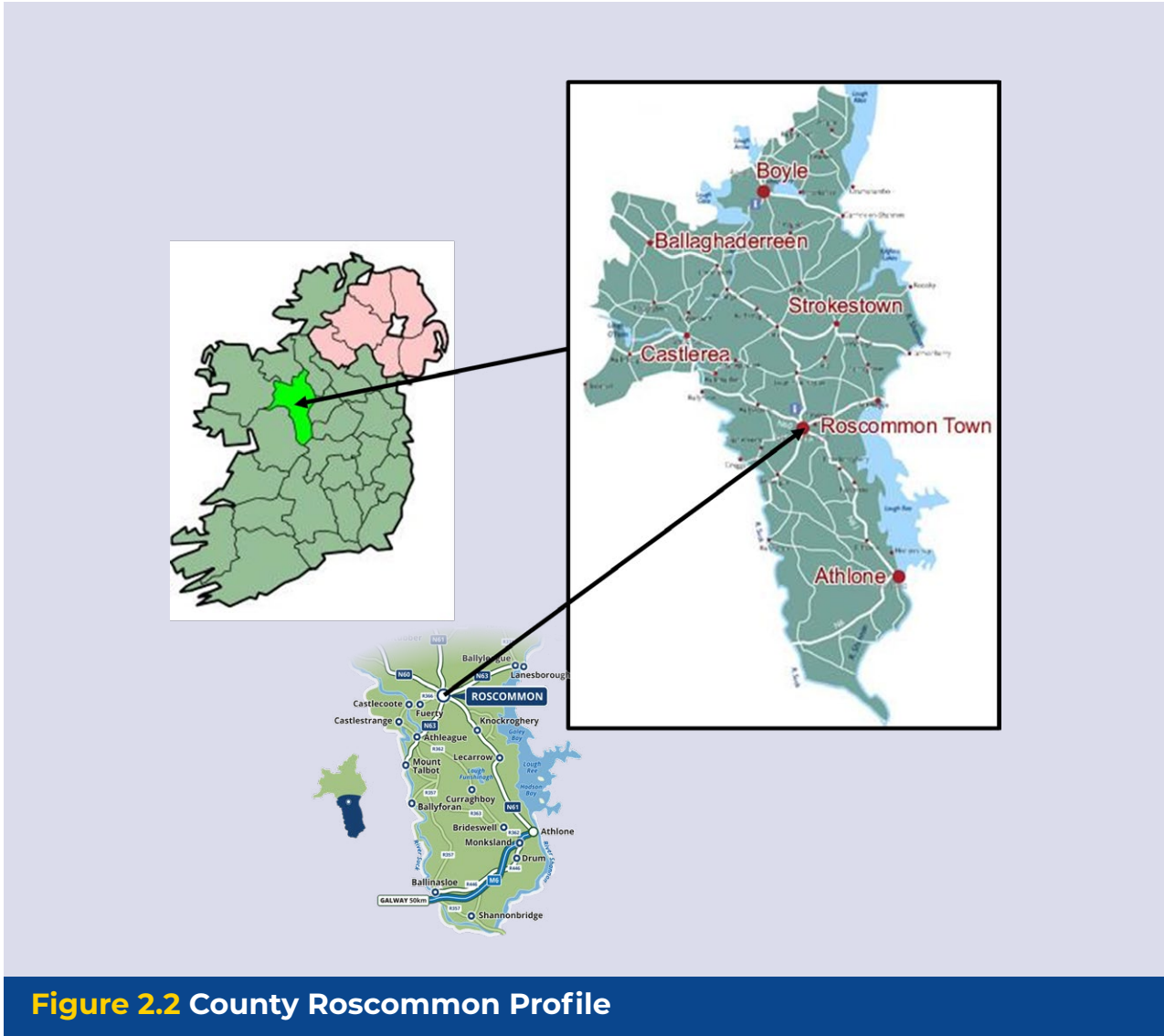
The primary challenge of this plan – how can action be mobilised at a local level? The vision and mission statement capture the nature of this challenge and set the context for the Actions contained at **Section 4** that set out how County Roscommon can address this challenge over the next five years.

2.1 COUNTY ROSCOMMON – PROFILE

Roscommon is a rural County centrally located in the Irish Midlands, bordered to the east by the River Shannon and Lough Ree and bordering seven other counties. The current population (CSO census 2022) stands at 70,259 persons, representing a 9% increase on the previous census. In contrast with previous census, this increase was primarily composed of inward migration, indicating the current buoyant state of the Irish economy and the effects of the war in Ukraine. Roscommon is a predominantly rural County with a relatively low population density and significant agricultural activity. While employment levels are running at an all-time high, the recent effects of the closure of the peat-fired power station at Lanesborough-Ballyleague and associated cessation of peat related activities on commercial boglands are still locally felt, highlighting the need to ensure that the transition to a carbon neutral society does not disproportionately affect those most vulnerable to negative social, economic and or environmental impacts.

The County has a strong town and village network, evenly geographically distributed, however population density remains relatively low in a national context at 28 persons per km² (having increased from 25.33 in 2016). The administrative centre is Roscommon town, centrally located within the County and the designated decarbonisation zone for the purposes of this plan and defined as a Key Town (along with Carrick-on-Shannon, the western portion of which, Cortober, is located in County Roscommon) in the North Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). The Monksland/Bealnamullia area forms part of Athlone, has a significant population and employment base and is designated a regional growth centre.

Located in the administrative area of the North Western Regional Assembly, the County has a significant national road network including the M6 Motorway to the south and is served by three rail lines (Dublin-Sligo, Dublin-Westport/Ballina and Dublin-Galway).



2.1.1 VISION AND MISSION

The following vision and mission identify the climate ambition of Roscommon County Council over the plan lifetime, facilitated by strategic goals and objectives that have been refined into realistic and achievable actions as part of a comprehensive roadmap towards a carbon neutral society by 2050.

Vision

Indications are that climate trends observed over the last century will continue to intensify over the coming decades



Mission

Roscommon County Council, through the management of our resources and assets, in the delivery of our services through engagement with communities and all sectors of society, will implement targeted Climate Actions in support of the national climate objective and a sustainable future



The profile outlined above represents considerable challenges in the mobilisation and delivery of Climate Action. The rural nature and low-density settlement pattern throughout the County creates significant issues in the decarbonisation of service delivery, particularly transport. The older age profile could signal challenges in the area of behavioural change for financial reasons and therefore a limited capacity to embrace and understand new technologies and systems. The County has a strongly rooted agricultural base, a sector that accounts for significant GHG emissions that has not traditionally been associated with a Local Authority remit. This is further compounded by the recent closure of ESB generation and Bord na Mona peat activity within the County as part of the national transition process to a Carbon Neutral society and its far-reaching socio-economic impacts.

Despite these challenges, consultation and engagement to date indicates that the Roscommon Community has begun to address the climate challenge and will continue to engage and work with Roscommon County Council over the five-year plan period



2.2 CLIMATE POLICY CONTEXT

Roscommon County Council has prepared this Climate Action Plan under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, in support of the National Climate objective, which seeks to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. This plan will translate national and regional climate ambitions and establish the Local Authority in a leadership role and a coordination mechanism for Climate Action at a local level.

The [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development \(Amendment\) Act 2021](#) is set within a broader international and EU policy context (see Figure 2.4) and frames Ireland's legally binding climate ambition, to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51% by 2030 on 2018 levels, placing the country on a trajectory to achieving climate neutrality by the end of 2050. This Act specifically requires all local authorities in Ireland to prepare and make a LACAP, in consideration of wider national climate and energy targets, addressing both mitigation and adaptation measures.

This LACAP aligns with and supports the achievement of climate related ambitions contained in other plans, including the North Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the Council's Corporate Plan, Roscommon County Development Plan, its associated plan hierarchy and strategies, and the Roscommon Local Economic and Community Plan (See Appendix B). It also aligns with sectoral adaptation plans at a national level and demonstrates a coherent approach to Climate Action across the administrative and political structure of the local authority.

Figure 2.3 summarises the climate policy timeline at international, EU and National level and illustrates how the urgency has intensified in the last number of years with building knowledge and observed impacts, leading to binding targets and definitive actions. Consequently, this Plan is set within a broader context of international, EU, national and sectoral climate policy.

In particular, the proposed actions have been developed in consideration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a summary of this alignment is presented in Tabular form at *Appendix A*.

Set against the backdrop of an evolving and ambitious framework of national climate policy, Roscommon County Council maintains a strong commitment to mainstreaming Climate Action across its own operations and functions, whilst also pursuing a leadership role on Climate Action at the local level.



Climate Policy Timeline

1994

UNFCCC
UNited nations convention on climate change - international cooperation to limit increases in global temperature and address impacts of climate change



2015

Paris Agreement
Legally binding international treaty addressing global temperature increases and promoting climate change adaption and resilience

UN Agenda 2030
Sustainable development goals (SDGs) aim to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere



2018-'19

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act

Introduced national Climate Objective

EU Green Deal
Aimed at making EU first carbon neutral continent by 2050

National Adaption Framework
Sets context for key sectors and local authorities to assess risks and vulnerabilities, implements actions to promote climate resilience and mainstream adaption considerations

Climate Action Charter
Commitment by Local Authorities to scale up efforts on climate action

2020-'21

EU Climate Law
Makes targets in green deal legally binding, including achievement of 55% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act
Reflects EU climate Law - introduced economy-wide carbon budgets, sectoral ceilings and strategies for adaption and mitigation, oversight and reporting.

Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030
Reflects EU climate Law - introduced economy-wide carbon budgets, sectoral ceilings and strategies for adaption and mitigation, oversight and reporting.

Sectoral Climate Action Plans
Published across Government departments - addresses key risks to build climate resilience

2022

National Climate Action Plan 2023
Prepared under 2021 Act, sets a roadmap to 2025 to cut emissions by 50% to 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050



2023

Long-Term Strategy on GHG Emissions Reuctions
Sets out indicative pathways beyond 2030 to achieve carbon neutrality

2024

Climate Action Teams Established in Local Authorities

Roscommon County Climate Action Plan



Key

International
EU
National

Figure 2.3 Policy Context

This LACAP is a statutory document, adopted by the Elected Members of Roscommon County Council in January 2024, following prescribed public consultation and engagement processes and environmental assessments carried out in tandem. The plan will remain in force for the five-year period from 2024 to 2029.

In preparing the LACAP, the Council has also taken account of other relevant climate legislation and policy and the evidence base at a County scale and that of the Decarbonisation Zone, Roscommon Town (see Chapter 3). These elements inform this LACAP and will be utilised to measure progress in implementing the Actions outlined at Chapter 4. The Plan outlines Roscommon County Council’s responsibilities in achieving enhanced climate resilience, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reductions across its own assets, operations, services and infrastructure under its remit, and recognising the broader role of influencing, advocating and facilitating other sectors to meet their own climate targets and ambitions.

This combined approach is necessary to realise the full potential of climate initiatives at local authority level and ensure that the environmental, social and economic benefits that come with Climate Action can be fully realised by the communities served within the Council’s functional area (see Figure 2.4).

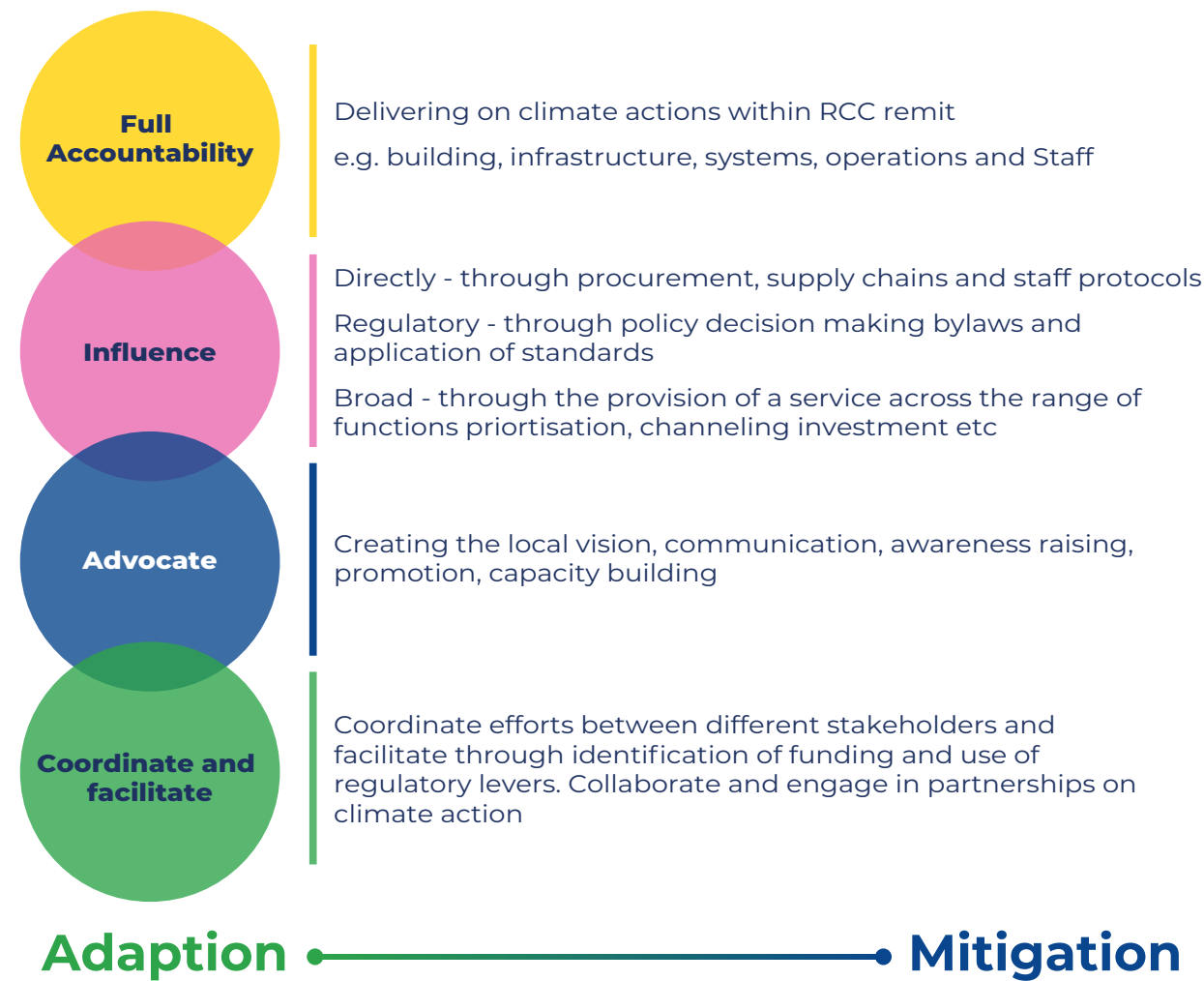
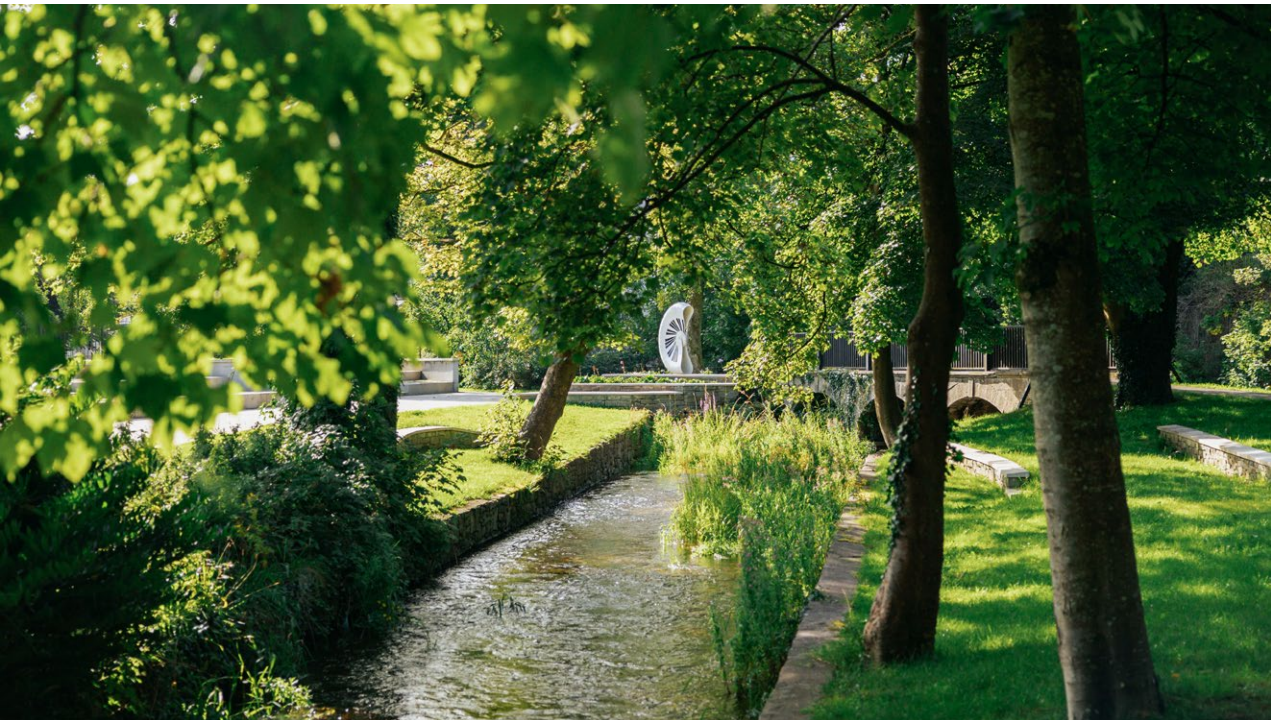


Figure 2.4 LACAP Scope

(Source: Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, 2023)

Extensive public consultation was carried out at the pre-draft and draft stages of the plan-making process to obtain community views and opinions on how Climate Action can be mobilised at a County level (see section 2.3.3).

The Council will also continue its efforts in rolling out ambitious Climate Action projects, drawing down available sources of funding, pursuing citizen and stakeholder engagement, all supported by a progressive action-based framework.

In a changing climate, the aim is to become more resilient to all future possibilities, allowing local communities to thrive and work towards real solutions that are meaningful, inclusive, fair and accessible for all, thereby prioritising a Just Transition to a carbon neutral economy and society.

2.3 THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is increasingly understood to be the most critical, long-term global challenge of our time, with wide-ranging impacts at all levels, from local to global. Climate research² provides overwhelming evidence that the climate has changed since the pre-industrial era and that human activities, through greenhouse gas emissions, are the principal cause of that change. It states the unequivocal cause of global warming has been human activities, with global surface temperatures reaching 1.1°C above 1850-1900, in the 2011-2020 period.

Recent analysis of Ireland’s climate echoes this conclusion. *Figure 2.5* compares the global temperature rise since 1900 to the Irish situation. Ireland’s weather statistics over the period are in line with global temperature increases. 2022 was a year of record-breaking extremes, in both temperature and precipitation (rainfall). Met Éireann stated that 2022 was ‘the warmest year on record’, putting Ireland’s temperature above the long-term average for the 12th consecutive year. Ireland also experienced record-breaking summer temperatures in 2022, recording the second highest temperature ever recorded in the country at 33°C. These events are reflected in the precipitation observations from 2022, where rainfall was recorded at below the long-term average at most stations. There was variability in rainfall throughout 2022, with extremes being felt in each of the seasons, resulting in a drier Summer and Spring, and a wetter Autumn and Winter.

Global Mean Sea Level increased by 20 cm between 1901 and 2018. The trend in global mean sea level rise has been consistent since 1901. Ireland has so far seen a similar rise in sea level with an average of 2-3 mm per year. A warming climate has caused a rise in sea level, through the loss of sea ice and thermal expansion (the increase in the volume of water due to heating) resulting from the warming ocean. Longer-term effects of this warming process and its potential to drastically affect climate systems in western Europe³ are yet to be determined in an Irish Context

Ireland has suffered from adverse climate impacts already and recent extreme weather events have highlighted the vulnerability of individuals, businesses, communities, sectors and infrastructure to climate change, emphasising the need for urgency on Climate Action across all sectors of society.

In 2021, storms Arwen and Barra left 59,000 homes and businesses without power⁴. The adverse impacts of climate change can often compound wider reaching social, environmental and economic challenges. This can increase vulnerability and sensitivity to a changing climate and climate extremes.

2 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC’s) Working Group I Sixth Assessment Report,
3 Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is a series of Oceanic currents that affect climate in western Europe.
4 Climate Action Plan, 2023

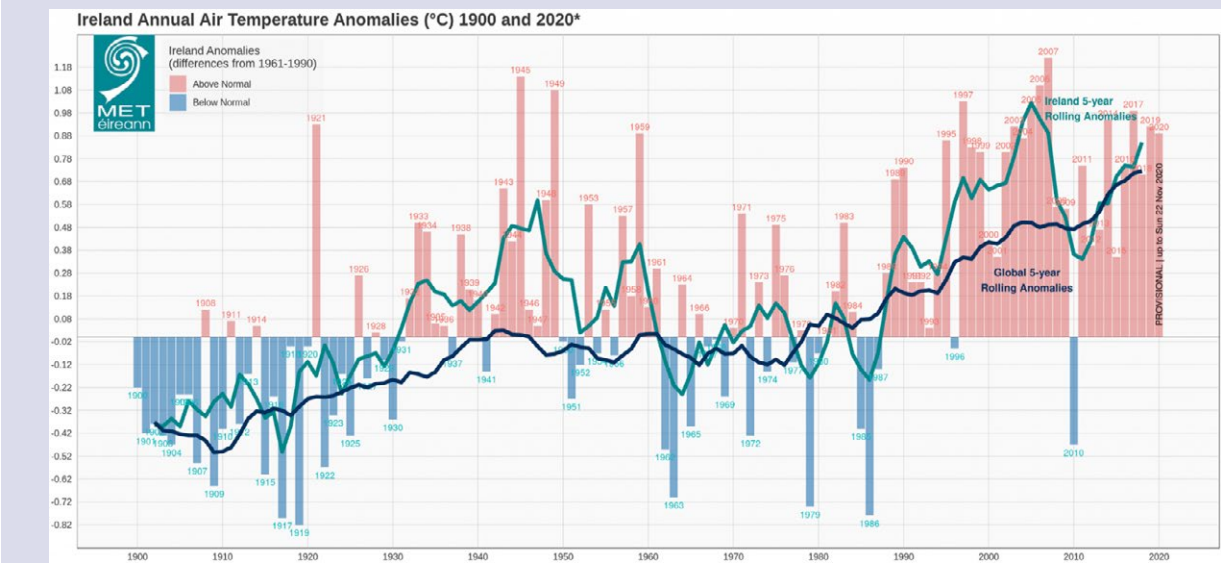


Figure 2.5 Island of Ireland 1900-2022 Temperature Anomalies

Based on observed changes in climate and its impacts, Met Éireann, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other climate scientists, are able to make robust projections on future climate patterns globally and in Ireland. The EPA, Marine Institute and Met Éireann published [The Status of Ireland’s Climate Report](#) in July 2021.

Future climate projections for County Roscommon are summarised at figure 2.6 (see also Climate Change Risk Assessment, **Chapter 3**). Nationally, there are also implications for coastal areas with anticipated sea level rises and associated flooding and coastal erosion.

The state of Ireland’s climate today and how it may look in the future can be brought together in one simple conclusion. Ireland’s climate has changed relative to the 1900’s, it has undoubtedly warmed along with global temperatures, bringing about an array of impacts that are associated with a warmer climate and more extreme weather events.

Projections on Future Climate Patterns in County Roscommon



Figure 2.6 Summary of projected Future Climate Patterns in County Roscommon

2.3.1 LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

The Roscommon County LACAP will strengthen the links between national and international climate policy and the delivery of effective Climate Action at local and community levels, through place-based Climate Action.

The LACAP also reinforces the commitment by the local government sector to lead on Climate Action at local and national levels, as reflected in the local government strategy, [DECA 2030](#).

Through the process of preparation and implementation, this plan offers opportunities to bring together critical stakeholders across sectors and at all levels to build a vision for a climate neutral future.

Roscommon County Council is firmly positioned at the forefront of Climate Action in Ireland. Local Authorities play a significant role in delivering adaptation and mitigation measures at local and community levels, working through regulatory and strategic functions to achieve the ambitious national climate targets and policy at local level and assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.

This LACAP is part of longer-term efforts to bring together both adaptation and mitigation actions, driving positive Climate Action outcomes across Roscommon County Council’s administrative area.

The framework of Climate Actions, set within a defined structure (see **Chapter 4**), ensures alignment between practical interventions and the high-level vision that the plan aspires to deliver.

This LACAP has been prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in March 2023



2.3.2 BENEFITS OF CLIMATE ACTION

In many cases, Climate Action has wide-ranging benefits for other areas such as biodiversity, the rural economy, community well-being and wise resources management, including the following examples:

- ▶ Warmer housing with lower running costs
- ▶ Alternative, beneficial uses for degraded lands
- ▶ Reduced infrastructural repair and maintenance costs
- ▶ Reduced fuel costs for vehicles
- ▶ Improvements in the quality and availability of amenities and access to same in urban areas.
- ▶ Vibrant and liveable town centres
- ▶ Stronger Communities
- ▶ Enhanced air and water quality

2.3.3 COUNTY ROSCOMMON - CITIZEN AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In line with the LACAP scope, as defined in the Guidelines and contained at figure 2.4, several levels of stakeholder engagement were required to mobilise a coherent approach to plan implementation. Successful Climate Action requires all sections of society to play their part in reducing emissions. It is therefore critically important that all stakeholders are engaged in the process of plan making and implementation, and that any concerns raised are incorporated for consideration in the plan process.

With reference to the scope outlined at *figure 2.4* above, *Full Accountability* and areas of *Influence* have stakeholders predominantly internal to RCC. An extensive process of cross directorate consultation took place over a number of weeks in the formulation and refinement of proposed goals, actions and objectives, refining responsibility for actions and detailing how progress will be measured. This was preceded by a targeted Climate Action training campaign, outlined in detail below, provided for staff and elected members.

RCC ran a pre-draft consultation campaign, that included an online survey, a dedicated portal for submissions and a series of outreach events in public libraries throughout the County during July/August 2023. Draft Actions were presented to the SPC⁵ on Planning, Environment Climate Change and Corporate Governance in September and elected members in October. Amendments and feedback from these meetings were incorporated into the draft document. Formal public consultation on the Draft LACAP took place from 27th October to 13th December 2023, where submissions were invited on the Draft LACAP and associated environmental assessments.

In order to act as an effective Advocate and in line with the *Coordination and Facilitation* aspects, targeted consultation continued with specific agencies and enabling bodies to mobilise action in sectoral areas such as agriculture, transport and the business sector over the formal consultation period. The Climate Action Unit utilised existing networks, particularly those rooted in the community, such as the LCDC and the PPN, to engage with a comprehensive range of stakeholders in the LACAP preparation process.

Submissions and contact indicated well-informed public stakeholders, willing to engage with the climate challenge. RCC hopes to nurture and encourage this enthusiasm to mobilise effective Climate Action. A detailed outline of the consultation and engagement process is provided below

⁵ It was noted at the SPC that there is difficulty in filling the Environmental Pillar on the PPN

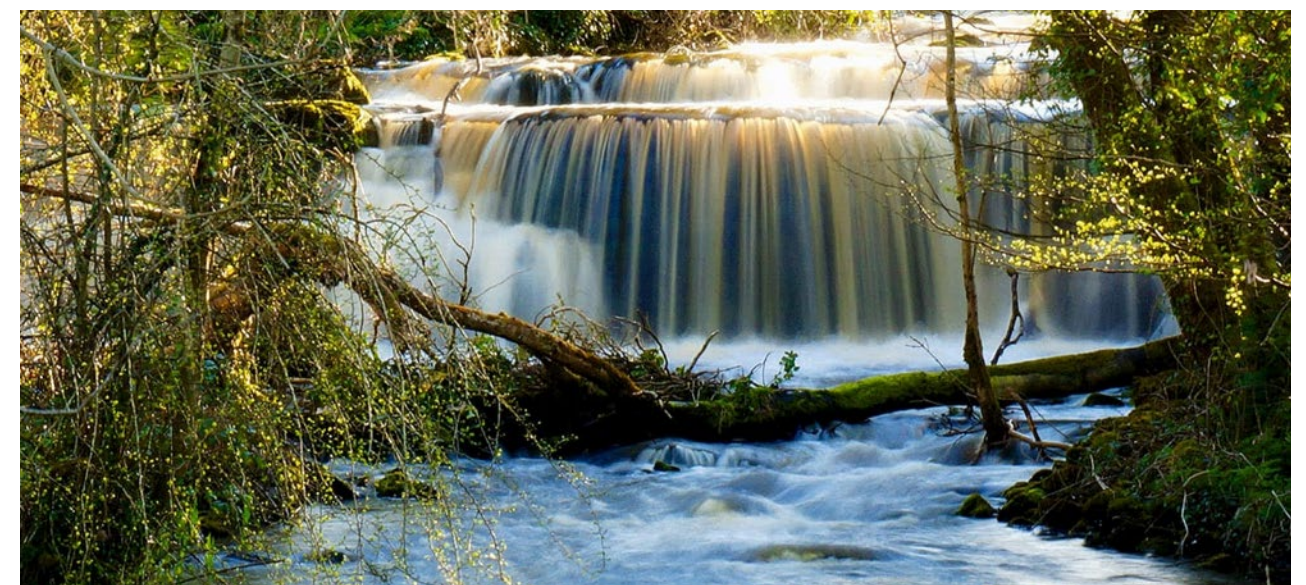
OUTLINE OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021, the Draft Climate Action Plan underwent statutory public consultation, from 27th October to December 13th 2023, inclusive. In accordance with the statutory notice, stakeholders were invited to make submissions during this period on the Draft LACAP and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Report. Copies of this notice and means of access to documentation were issued to the Environmental Authorities, prescribed Authorities and adjoining Local Authorities as per the requirements of the Act.

Copies of the documents were provided to all council libraries and area offices in the county so that they could be accessed and read by members of the public and any other stakeholders. All documents were also made available online.

Advertisements, including the statutory notice and access to relevant information on GDPR were placed in both local newspapers - The Roscommon People on October 27th and The Roscommon Herald on October 31st - in addition to the utilization of social media, internally on the council intranet and on the Council's website which gave relevant details about the Draft CAP consultation.

A total of 23 submissions, including acknowledgements, were received during the consultation period, 18 of which constituted valid submissions and were included in the Chief Executive (CE) report on submissions for analysis, review and recommendation. The CE report was presented to Roscommon County Council, along with the Draft LACAP incorporating proposed modifications arising from the report, SEA and AA screening of the proposed modifications and associated determinations, on 22nd January 2024.



KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

A series of public events were conducted during November and December to support the statutory consultation phase of the LACAP, where the Climate Action Unit were available and at which copies of the Draft LACAP and associated environmental assessments were available for attendees to review. Interested parties were invited to make submissions and/or observations on the documents displayed.

Dedicated public consultation events were held at these locations:

- ▶ King House, Boyle on Tuesday 21st November, 2023,
- ▶ Monksland Community Centre, Monksland on Thursday 23rd November, 2023, This was a joint event with Roscommon LEADER and which also promoted energy awareness.
- ▶ Áras an Chontae, Roscommon on Friday 24th November.
- ▶ Trinity Arts Centre, Castlerea on Tuesday 28th November.

In addition to the public consultation events, the Climate Action Unit also attended the Comhairle Na nÓg Annual Conference to promote the consultation process and give general information on Climate Action. Climate Action Unit Officers also held a stand at the PPN Plenary Session on November 29th, 2023, at The Abbey Hotel to highlight the consultation phase and encourage submissions.

The Climate Action Unit also presented the Draft CAP at Kilbride Community Centre on October 31st, 2023, at The National Federation of Group Water Schemes conference.

ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In addition to the attendance by the Climate Action Unit at the Comhairle Na nÓg Annual Conference, Roscommon County Council's Environmental and Awareness Officer made contact with local schools that were circulated with full details of how to access the Draft LACAP and invited to make submissions.

Climate Action Unit Officers also presented details of the Draft LACAP at the October meeting of the Economic Development SPC and the Local Community Development Committee meeting of 22nd November, 2023.

On November 29th, 2023, the Climate Action Unit hosted a meeting organized by CARO to present and discuss the Draft CAP with other County Council Climate Action Units. Meetings were also held with the representatives from the following organisations over the consultation period:

- ▶ Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland representatives,
- ▶ Teagasc,
- ▶ The Irish Farmers Association

- ▶ Roscommon Women's Network
- ▶ Rooskey and Roscommon Sustainable Energy Communities/Roscommon Transition Town,
- ▶ County Roscommon Men's Sheds,
- ▶ GAA Green Clubs
- ▶ Think-tank for Action on Social Change (TASC)
- ▶ The Western Development Commission
- ▶ Irish bioenergy association (Irbea)
- ▶ Roscommon LEADER Partnership.

2.3.4 CLIMATE ACTION TRAINING

In partnership with the CAROs and the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASTNG), Climate Action training continues to be rolled out for the entire local authority sector including elected members, to empower and upskill staff to act as leaders on Climate Action. Staff in Roscommon County Council have been trained in various pillars of Climate Action training, with future training requirements being assessed on a continuous basis. The Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) has also organised training events and an accredited training course for elected members.

Roscommon County Council has also organised workshops for local community groups such as Roscommon Women's Network. In partnership with the CAROs, 'Let's talk Climate Action' workshops have also been organised across the country, through the network of Age Friendly Ireland coordinators in local authorities.

At a school level, the Council's Environmental Awareness Officer works closely with the An Taisce Green Schools programme, to continue awareness activities and Green Flag awards in both primary and post-primary schools. An Taisce has also developed new resources for teachers on Climate Action, to overlap with teaching curriculums.

2.3.5 COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

On February 3rd 2023, the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications, launched the Climate Action Fund Strand 1 - Building Low Carbon Communities. This is a fund of €24 million for local authorities across the country, to support and build low carbon communities. A further €3 million is being provided to support cross-border and all-island community Climate Action initiatives. This funding is part of the Community Climate Action Programme, which supports projects and initiatives that facilitate community Climate Action through education, capacity building and learning by doing.

Strand 1 includes the appointment of dedicated Community Climate Action Officers (CCAO) in all local authorities to guide and support communities from the very start. Roscommon County Council Community Climate Action Officer has launched the fund in December 2023. The Community Climate Action Officer continues to support and empower Community Groups and organisations, small and large, rural and urban, to build sustainable communities in a structured and coherent way.

Eligible Community projects address the following five themes:

- ▶ Community/energy
- ▶ Travel
- ▶ Food and waste
- ▶ Shopping and recycling
- ▶ Local climate and environmental action

The actions included in this Climate Action Plan aim to equip all citizens and stakeholders with information to make informed decisions, assisting and empowering them to play their part in County Roscommon's transition to low carbon and climate resilient society, together with the adjoining local authorities in the region. Effective Climate Action communication with all sectors of society develops opportunities to create long-term, positive behavioural change that will have a significant impact on reducing both greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change now and into the future.



In implementing and updating the Climate Action Plan into the future, strengthening existing networks and creating new Climate Action partnerships, will progressively inform and encourage all citizens, communities and other stakeholders to have increased access to information and advice. Interest areas could include the identification and implementation of relevant energy efficiency measures, renewable energy actions, climate adaptation and resilience measures, access to funding sources such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland grant schemes, the Climate Action Fund, European Commission funding and others. Local authority efforts in citizen and stakeholder engagement will continue to be supported by the CAROs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Dialogue on Climate Action, and other partners.

2.4 COUNTY ROSCOMMON – CLIMATE ACTION IN THE COMMUNITY

There are a wide range of Climate Action initiatives underway at all levels within the Community in County Roscommon. The following case studies underline the level of interest and engagement upon which this plan hopes to build, expand and embed the Climate Action agenda throughout the County. Opportunities created by these community-based initiatives are reflected in the actions contained in **Chapter 4**.

In 2023 the Climate Action Unit issued a request for expressions of interest from communities, businesses and individuals to showcase ongoing Climate Action initiatives within the County. This process was well received, resulting in the production of 12 videos outlining ambitious steps that have been taken to address climate change, increase biodiversity and promote sustainable living throughout County Roscommon. Included in these initiatives are projects that highlight the links between biodiversity, food security, landscape management and holistic health and well-being.

The *Green Hub Gardening Club* in Strokestown is a community-based group that focus on knowledge sharing and sustainable gardening through a number of projects that include a seed-saving hub, the development of wildflower gardens and training/garden visits to promote sustainable practice and locally based food production.

In a similar vein, *Hillside Holistic Farm* promotes sensitive farming practice in recognition of the role of the agricultural sector as the primary custodian of the wider landscape and its biodiversity. This role is recognised throughout this plan and the actions contained within to engage with the sector, challenge negative stereotypes through fair representation of progress to date and promote the development and deployment of innovative Climate Action initiatives technologies in support of national decarbonisation targets. The Community Climate Action project is addressed further in the following sections.

In addition to community projects, Roscommon County Council has engaged with the University of Maynooth and University College Dublin in the preparation of guidance related to the use of herbicides and pesticides in council and community applications and on the protection and maintenance of trees in support of Climate Action.

Green-Schools is an international environmental education programme, offering a well-defined, structured way for schools to take environmental issues from the curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of their school.

Green-Schools covers a number of different themes, beginning with Litter and Waste-minimisation and followed by the themes of Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, Global Citizenship-Litter & Waste, Global Citizenship-Energy, Global Citizenship-Marine Environment, Global Citizenship-Travel and Global Citizenship-Food and Biodiversity.

Roscommon County Council's Environmental Education and Awareness Officer supports An Taisce and the Green School programme. This is achieved through awareness raising activities and the promotion of climate science and action resources to teachers and students.

Roscommon also engages with the GAA Green Clubs initiative. These programmes, targeting the future generation of Climate Action initiators, are considered essential in embedding and mainstreaming climate awareness throughout the community.

The following case studies highlight some of the important local initiatives underway throughout the County.



2.4.1 CYCLEUP – ROSCOMMON WOMEN'S NETWORK

Roscommon Women's Network (RWN) is an environmental and training social enterprise which addresses the issue of textile waste through a community development approach to environmental protection, supporting the hardest to reach women and families to engage in training in the repair and reuse of materials. CycleUp raises awareness of the circular economy in a rural Roscommon context, with significant tandem social benefits and development of local employment opportunities.

This environmental training social enterprise progressed from the success of the Roscommon Women's Network (RWN) Textile Upcycling Pilot Project in 2019 which was co-funded by the Local Agenda 21 and Dept. Communications, Climate Action and Environment as well as clothing brand Patagonia with support from Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRET), The Roscommon Environmental Network and the Rediscovery Centre.

Following on from the evaluation and results of the pilot project, RWN secured funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Green Enterprise initiative for the Women's Environmental Community Activation Network (WECAN) project for 2021. This funded a project manager for a 12-month period to develop and grow the Social Enterprise, promote and market upcycled products to increase sales, expand the training reach throughout the region and beyond and spread the message of the circular economy through networking and outreach workshops.

Upcycling Textiles Group Participants have completed the Training Delivery and Evaluation QQI Level 6 to qualify as tutors for Upcycling Textiles Training Courses and Workshops and inspire the next generation of creative reuse in County Roscommon. The success of this group can be seen at [CycleUp - Roscommon Women's Network \(rwn.ie\)](https://www.cycleup-roscommon.ie) and in their online and in-person shops that carry a diverse range of creatively upcycled goods and accept individual commissions.



2.4.2 SOURCE PROTECTION SCHEME PILOT

This was a joint initiative launched by the national federation of group water schemes and local Group Water Schemes in partnership with Roscommon County Council and DHPLG and won the European Landowner's Organisation's European bee award in 2020.

The overall aim of this Group Water Scheme initiative is to educate the public about the relationship between what happens in a source catchment and the quality of tap water, and to help explain the important role biodiversity enhancement can play in drinking water source protection. The project has included the distribution of beehives to local farming families, trees being provided to primary school children in 88 National Schools across Roscommon, awareness campaigns on pesticides and farmers implementing measures to protect water courses, which also act as habitats for pollinators.

The 'Let it Bee' project was launched in 2020 by Roscommon group water schemes involved in a national drinking water source protection project. Funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the project saw 17 farming families get involved in the art of beekeeping. The initiative provided bees, equipment and mentorship to each family and aims to educate local communities about the link between biodiversity and the protection of drinking water sources, along with the dangers of pesticides to both. Its success has seen the National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) since extend the initiative to counties Mayo and Cavan.

The project has now been awarded funding by the Irish research Council for a royal college of surgeons on Ireland study to measure its well-being impact.

The project encourages environmentally-friendly actions in Group Water Scheme (GWS) source catchments/zones of contribution, which can lead to improvements in water quality in the rivers, lakes and groundwater, along with the added benefits of biodiversity enhancement and carbon capture.

Corracreigh Group Water Scheme, who participated in the project, County Roscommon were the overall winners in the Biodiversity Enhancement section of the GWS excellence awards, 2023.

In a changing climate with greater flood risk and increased incidence of drought, pressures on water quality become more pronounced. The ongoing initiative is an exemplar of how communities can act with various partners and the Local Authority to progress meaningful adaptation and mitigation measures of international significance.

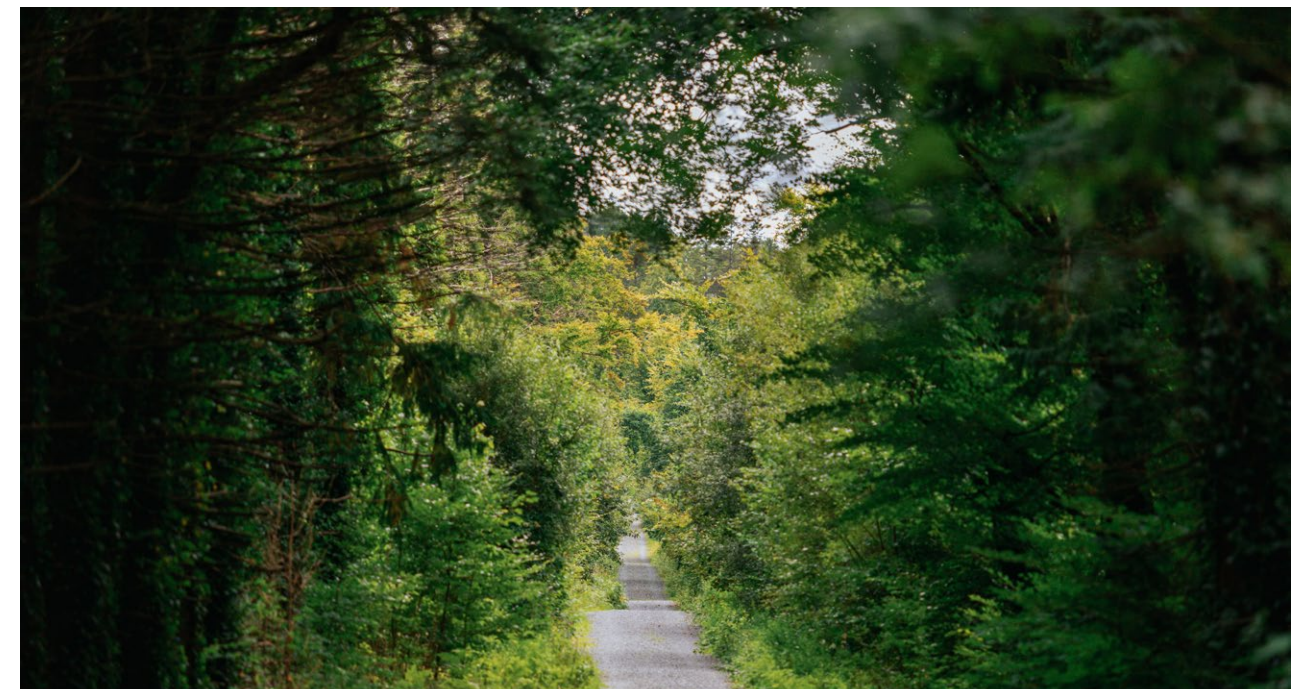
2.4.3 ROSCOMMON COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

Responding to expression of interest in early 2023, 12 community groups took part in a video showcase of Climate Action projects that are ongoing in the county. These included the Roscommon Women's Network CycleUp project and Source Protection Pilot outlined above and the following exemplars of community action in the County:

- ▶ Green Hub Gardening Club, Strokestown
- ▶ Hillside Organic farm
- ▶ Mid-Roscommon Group Water Scheme
- ▶ St. John's Amenity Group
- ▶ Ballydangan Wild Grouse Project
- ▶ St. John's Native Woodland
- ▶ Roscommon Transition Town Sustainable Energy Community
- ▶ Ballyleague Men's Shed
- ▶ Lecarrow Beekeeper
- ▶ Caseys Roscommon
- ▶ Kiltewan tidy Town Group

The Climate Action Unit, in collaboration with the Environmental Awareness Officer, will investigate the potential inclusion of these videos in the Green Schools and other education and awareness programmes as appropriate.

Further detail on these projects is available at [Projects - Roscommon County Council \(roscommoncoco.ie\)](https://roscommoncoco.ie)



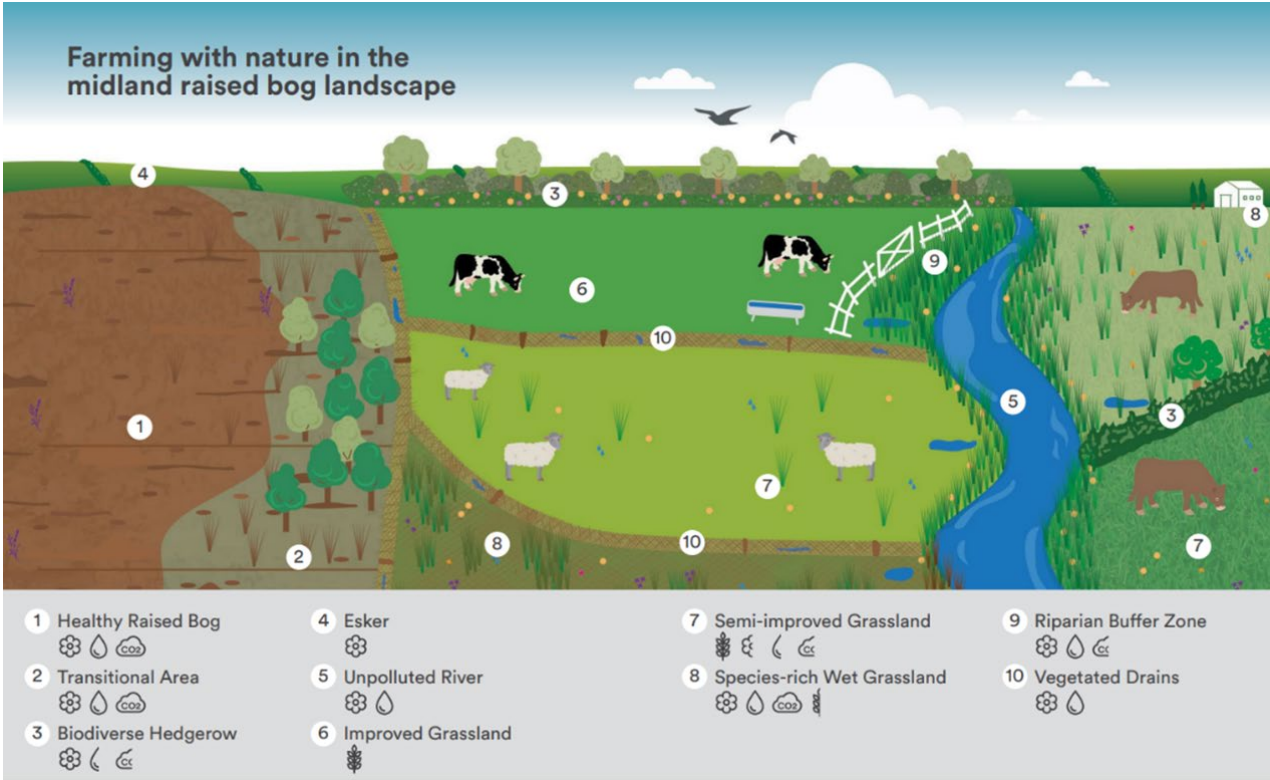
2.4.4 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES

There are a number of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) throughout the County. These are local organisations that engage with the SEAI, and facilitated by Roscommon County Council, to develop Energy Management Plans and associated projects to deliver energy efficiency and emissions reductions in their homes, businesses and operations. Roscommon County Council will continue to support these communities and promote the SEC programme in the County through existing networks such as the PPN and Roscommon Leader Partnership and collaborate on potential projects to mobilise Climate Action in the County.



2.4.5 FARMPEAT

FarmPeat (Farm Payments for Ecological and Agricultural Transitions) is a locally based European innovation Partnership funded by DAFM. It is a results-based scheme for farmers who manage lands that surround raised bogs, promoting protection, conservation and preservation of these sites through appropriate management of the transition zone between agriculture and raised bog. The programme rewards farmers for improved ecological management of habitats on peat soils also considering geological and hydrological features and field boundaries. - full reports available at Climate Action - Roscommon County Council (roscommoncoco.ie)



Compliance is based on a scorecard system, with higher scores meaning higher environmental quality and higher payments. Clonboley Bog, Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough are the eligible areas in County Roscommon. This project has the potential to act as a model for future community engagement with the challenging nature of agriculture in support of decarbonisation targets.



3. EVIDENCE-BASED CLIMATE ACTION

An evidence based approach is crucial in ensuring a tailored and focussed approach to addressing the climate challenge at a local level. Roscommon County Council commissioned the preparation of a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) and Baseline Emissions Inventories (BEI) – carried out in respect of the County and the Town Decarbonisation Zone (see Technical Appendices) to ascertain local conditions and progress the development of Climate Actions on this basis.

Roscommon County LACAP is underpinned by a robust evidence-base. Building the evidence base enables local authorities to apply a systematic approach towards a better understanding of the challenges, identify synergies and opportunities, and leverage mechanisms and actors in the delivery of effective Climate Action. Building the evidence base includes:

- ▶ Establishing the local authority context,
- ▶ Developing baseline emission inventories for the County and Decarbonisation Zone,
- ▶ Assessing climate change risks and impacts and
- ▶ Exploring the broader policy context of the LACAP.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation were previously approached as two distinct agendas. The LACAP presents an opportunity to deliver both agendas in an integrated way. The development of the local evidence base forms the foundation for integrated local level Climate Action and consequently, stronger place-based Climate Action. At the local scale, this approach supports:

- ▶ Developing a better understanding of greenhouse gas emissions and climate related risks,
- ▶ Assessing local conditions and contexts,
- ▶ Translating and tailoring the broader policy context and framework for ambitious, climate policy responses, to local level.

3.1 COUNTY ROSCOMMON CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT

A climate change risk assessment was commissioned by Roscommon County Council and carried out in accordance with Technical Annex B of the LACAP guidelines to create an understanding of the local impacts of climate change on the operations, functions and delivery of services for Roscommon County Council.

Two main areas were addressed:

1. An assessment of the climate and weather related impacts already being experienced
2. Identification of the potential future climate impacts and risks for County Roscommon.

the full report is contained at [Climate Action - Roscommon County Council \(roscommoncoco.ie\)](https://roscommoncoco.ie) , the following summary outlines the main findings in each area.

3.1.1 EXISTING CLIMATE AND WEATHER RELATED IMPACTS

A summary of the existing climate events is provided at figure 3.1 below. These include;

- ▶ Recent experiences of cold spells and heavy snowfall events in 2018 (e.g. Storm Emma) demonstrated the wide range of impacts for County Roscommon, including road closures, disruption to public transport, power outages and a reduction in agricultural production.
- ▶ Projected increases in average temperature and decreases in the frequency of snowfall indicate a decrease in the frequency of cold spells, heavy snowfall, and their associated impacts.

Droughts



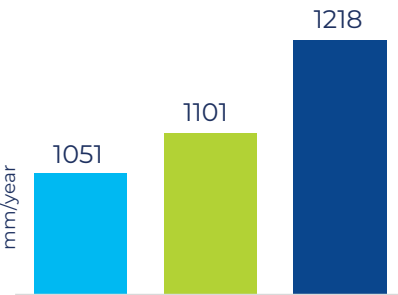
The longest continuous absolute drought was recorded at Lanesboro Cloondara) in 2007, lasting a total of 30 days



Highest temperature on recorded on July 18th 2022 at Mt.Dillon

Rainfall

Average annual rainfall at Loughlinn increased by 16% for the most recent period (1981 2010) when compared to the 1961 1990 baseline



0.3°C

Average temperature increase for the period 1971 2000 when compared to the 1961 1990 baseline**

Three of the wettest years on record have occurred in the last 10 years based on records extending back

Figure 3.1 Summary of existing Climate/Weather impacts

- Recent experiences of river and pluvial flooding events in 2021 and 2022 resulted in a wide range of impacts across the County such as inundation of residential properties, closure of businesses, disruption of transport networks, inundation of farmland, and damage to recreational amenities.

3.1.2 POTENTIAL FUTURE CLIMATE IMPACTS AND RISKS

An assessment took place of potential future changes in the climate of County Roscommon by 2050 and its effects on the frequency of hazard occurrence. An assessment of the future changes in the population and development in the region by 2050 that could affect exposure and vulnerability was also undertaken. Finally, considering all three components, the future climate risk was assessed. A summary of these is provided below at *figure 3.2*.

Having identified and assessed the range of climate hazards already experienced by Roscommon County Council, the projected changes in the frequency and intensity of climate hazards was assessed to understand how existing climate impacts and risks faced by Roscommon County Council may be exacerbated. The information below summaries the climate projections for each hazard based on Nolan and Flanagan (2020).

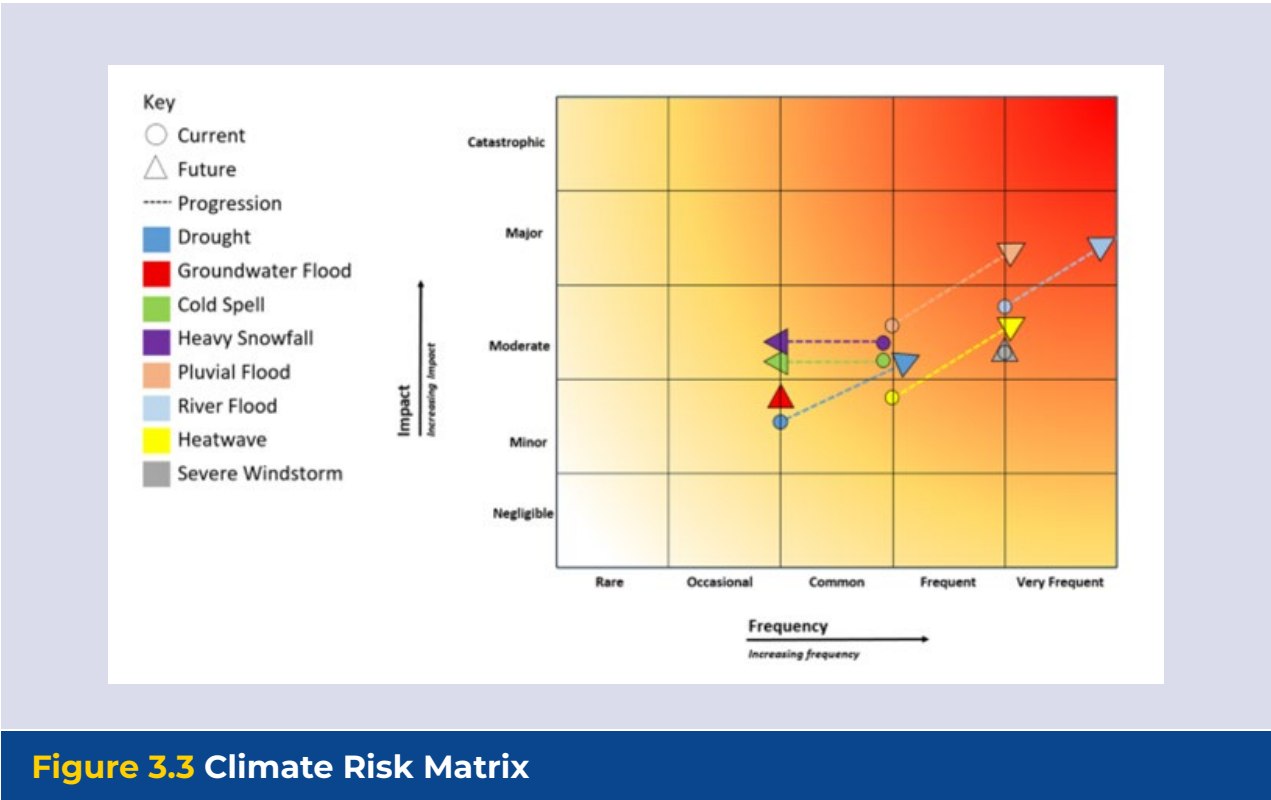


	Hazard	Projected Change	Future Frequency
	Heatwaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Projections indicate an overall increase in average temperature (bottom of between 1.1 and 1.5 C for County Roscommon relative to the 1981 2000 period. Projections indicate that heatwaves will become more frequent (bottom 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

Figure 3.2 Potential Future Climate Impacts and risks

On the basis of these assessments, a climate risk matrix was developed (figure 3.3).

- ▶ The assessment identified river flooding and severe windstorm events currently posing the highest level of risk for County Roscommon, with river flood associated with damage to assets and infrastructure and potential for isolation of communities and vulnerable populations. Impacts of severe windstorm are primarily associated with disruption and damage to energy, communication and transport networks. The incidence of river flooding events is projected to increase, with associated impact severity rising from moderate to major. Severe windstorm event frequency is not predicted to change.
- ▶ Pluvial flooding is identified as posing a relatively high risk for County Roscommon, with impacts associated with damage to road surfaces, disruption of transport networks and mobilisation of pollutants. Event frequency is projected to increase and impact severity increasing from moderate to major.
- ▶ Cold spells and heavy snowfall occur on common basis across County Roscommon resulting in damages to critical energy, communication and water infrastructure while closure of transport infrastructure has the potential to result in isolation of remote communities. These events are anticipated to become less common into the future.
- ▶ Heatwaves occur on a common basis in County Roscommon; however, the overall impact is currently considered minor, however, these are anticipated to become more frequent and the associated risk to increase to a moderate level. The impact of heatwaves are associated with an increase in the frequency of uncontrolled fire, damage to road surfaces and increased pressure on recreational sites.
- ▶ Groundwater flooding is considered to occur on an occasional basis in County Roscommon with impacts associated with disruption of road transport and community isolation. The frequency of groundwater flooding is not expected to increase.
- ▶ During the current period, droughts have also occurred on occasional basis but with relatively minor impacts and are associated with increases in the frequency of uncontrolled fires and disruption of water supply, however the frequency of drought conditions is expected to increase along with an associated change from minor to moderate impact. Roscommon experienced both a heatwave and drought in 2018, with heatwaves recorded in 2021 and 2022. These events resulted in damage to road surfaces, the imposition of restrictions on water supply (hosepipe ban) and contributed to an increased demand placed on recreational areas.
- ▶ Projected increases in the frequency of heatwaves and drought conditions will mean that events currently experienced on an infrequent basis, including peatland fires, will become more frequent. As the population ages, there will also be an increase in the number of vulnerable people exposed to heat-related risks.



As illustrated in the climate risk matrix (Figure 3.3) the frequency and intensity of some hazards (e.g., river and pluvial flooding, heatwaves and drought) will increase while others will remain the same (e.g., severe windstorms and groundwater flooding). Some hazards are expected to decrease in frequency, such as cold spells and heavy snowfalls.

To increase resilience, Roscommon County Council will need to proactively plan for and adapt to the current and future climate change risks identified and associated hazards.

Projected changes in exposure and vulnerability relate to the anticipated level of development and population growth in the County, the development required to sustain this, and the interaction with projected changes in climate outlined above. An analysis of plans at national, regional and local level has been combined with the assessment of climate impacts to assess vulnerability and exposure into the future in seven key areas outlined below.

Social

- ▶ 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**
- ▶ 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

Cultural Heritage

- ▶ Due to the potential increase in frequency of heatwave and drought events, **degradation rates will potentially increase resulting in an increase in the impact of cultural heritage assets**
- ▶ 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

Financial

- ▶ Due to the potential increase in frequency of hazard events and exposure across County Roscommon, there will be a **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

Reputation

- ▶ 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

- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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 roads
- ▶ 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

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Pluvial and river events that were 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

- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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



3.2 COUNTY ROSCOMMON BASELINE EMISSIONS INVENTORY

A baseline emissions inventory study was carried out by Feehily Timoney and Company (FT) on behalf of Roscommon County Council (the full report is contained at Climate Action - Roscommon County Council (roscommoncoco.ie). The report presents a ‘helicopter overview’ of baseline greenhouse gas emissions from various sectors in a year.

The baseline report aims to raise awareness of climate change and the impact that different sectors have on overall carbon emissions within the County. It provides the Council with the necessary information to make informed decisions on climate change actions to lower the county’s carbon emissions.

3.2.1 ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL BASELINE EMISSIONS

GHG emissions data for the local authority was sourced from the county council’s SEAI monitoring and reporting database for 2018 base year. This data is presented in Figure 3.4

The level of thermal related emissions for the Local Authority is relatively low, while transport related emissions for the Local Authority are relatively high. Electricity emissions, while accounting for a considerable percentage, will continue on a steady downward trajectory given the extent of renewables in the mix, which will increase in line with government policy.

Category	GHG Emission tCO2-eq
Electricity	1,735
Thermal	315
Transport	1,560
Total	3,610

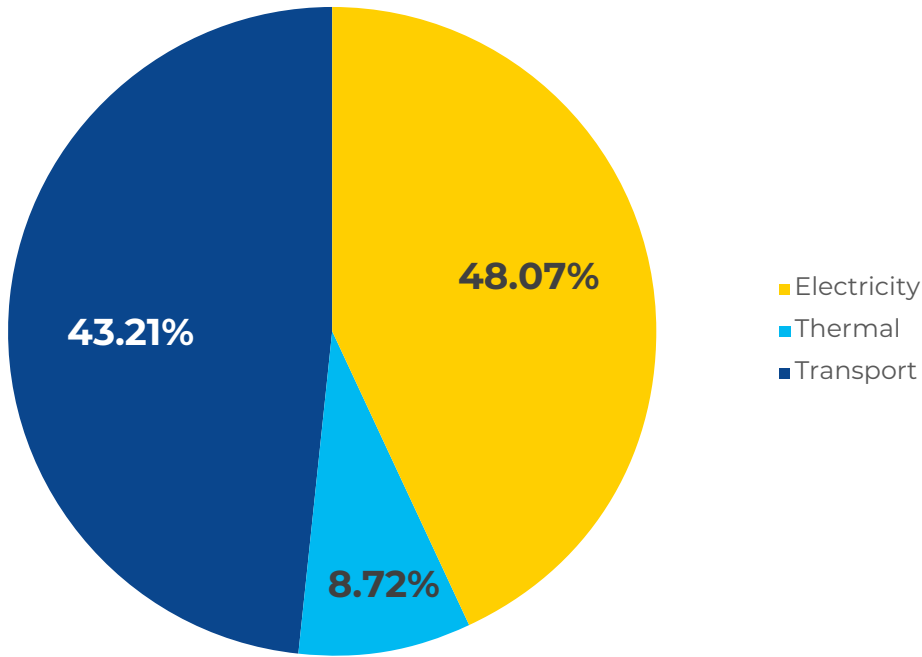


Figure 3.4 Local Authority Emissions Data

3.2.2 COUNTY ROSCOMMON SECTORAL BASELINE EMISSIONS

The analysed sectors in the county generated 1,622,291.4 tCO2-eq in the baseline year, overall. A breakdown of these emissions and targeted emission levels for 2030 by sector and a percentage breakdown of emissions in the baseline year is provided in Figure 3.5 below

The top three sectors in the county in terms of GHG emission levels were Agriculture, Transport and Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry producing 43%, 22% and 16% of tCO2-eq respectively, of the total emissions in the county. From this analysis, these sectors should be the main targets of energy and emission initiatives.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 commits Ireland to reach a legally binding target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030. An overall emission reduction of 827,368.62318096 tCO2-eq to 794,922.79 tCO2-eq is required for the county across all sectors to achieve the target to reduce GHG emissions by 51% by 2030.

An illustration of existing emissions relative to 2030 targets broken down by each sector is provided in Figure 3.5

Sector	Emissions 2018 tCO2-eq	Target Emissions 2030 tCO2-eq
Residential	211,340.1	103,556.67
Commercial and Industrial	90,711.2	44,448.50
Industrial Processes	11,977.6	5,869.01
Agriculture	691,156.5	338,666.67
Transport	350,959.4	171,970.12
Waste and Wastewater	11,930.6	5,846.01
LULUCF	254,215.9	124,565.81
Total	1,622,291.4	794,922.79

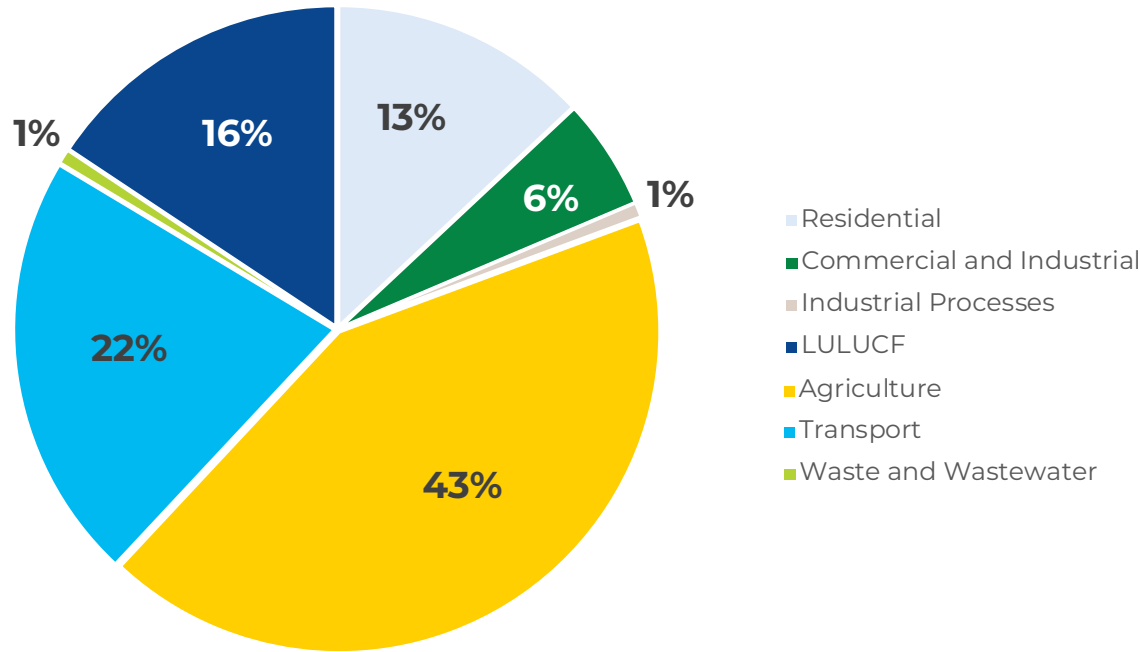


Figure 3.5 Emissions Breakdown by Sector

EMISSIONS BROKEN DOWN BY SECTOR

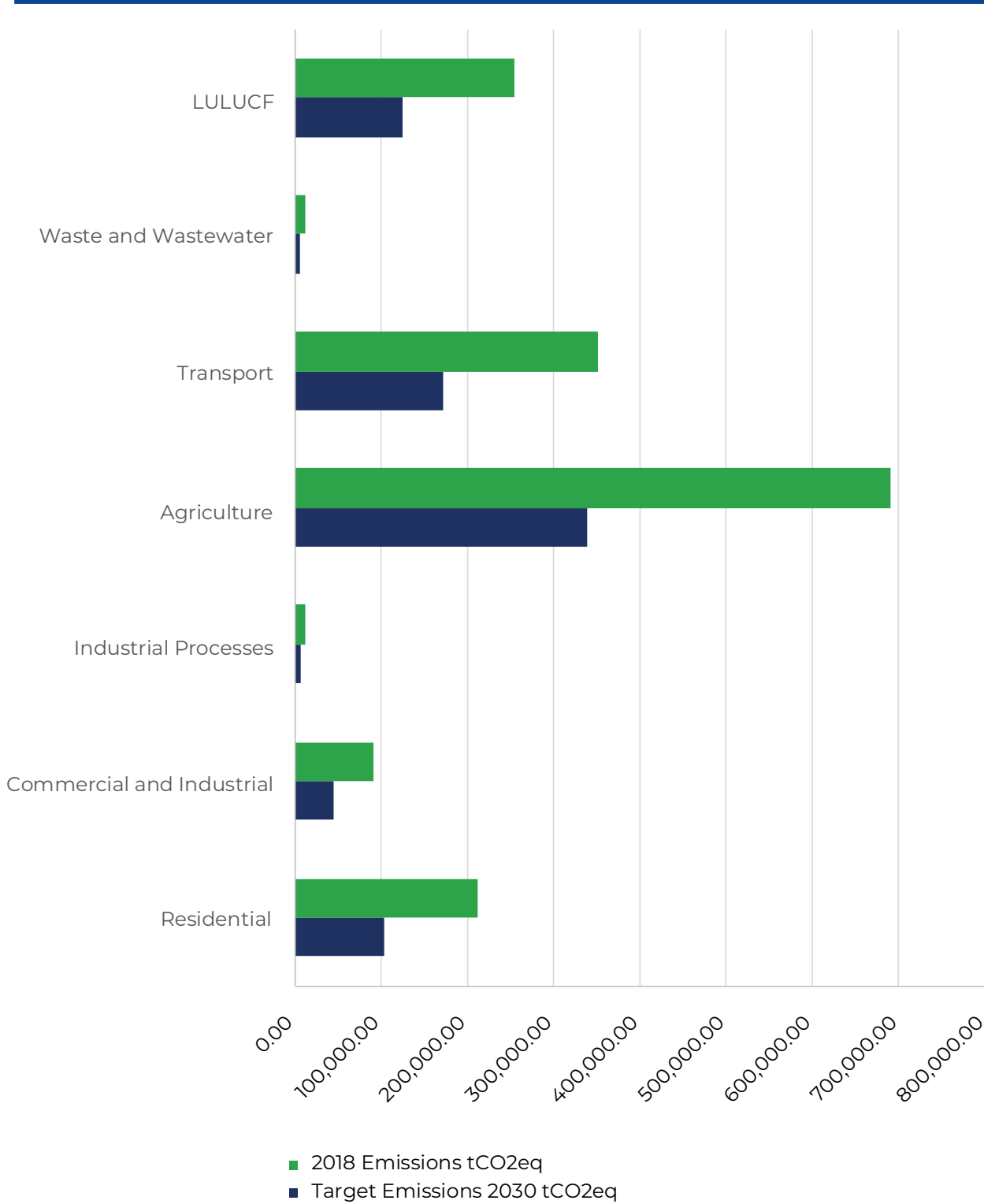


Figure 3.6 Emission Reduction requirements per sector

4. FRAMEWORK OF CLIMATE ACTIONS

4.1 DEPENDENCIES

Mobilising Climate Action in Roscommon County Council is a complex and detailed process that requires buy-in, engagement and significant ongoing resources from all sections. Many of the actions outlined are dependent on the availability of these resources over the lifetime of the plan and an ongoing commitment at a national level to provide these in support of Climate Action.

Climate Action is a rapidly evolving area that is being embedded across all local regional and national administrations. Actions have been carefully developed to be robust and cater for a range of solutions within this evolutionary context and the statutory confines of this five-year plan. Actions should therefore be interpreted in this way.

The actions identify lead sections and partners in each instance and data suppliers for tracking purposes. As with other local authorities, it should be noted that restructuring is ongoing within Roscommon County Council and that the assigned section may change name and/or be reallocated responsibility over the course of the lifetime of the plan. Again, actions and associated leads and partners identified should be interpreted accordingly.

Timelines have been devised based on the tracking methodology identified and data sources available. These intervals may be modified where more appropriate metrics are devised and/or on the advice of the CARO and Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications.

4.2 ALIGNMENT WITH POLICY CONTEXT

The rapid evolution of climate policy over recent years is documented at Figure 2.3. This plan is firmly rooted within this context and, as required, is closely aligned with the hierarchy of legislation, policy, goals and objectives within which it sits. The dedicated strategy targeting the local authority sector, “Delivering effective Climate Action 2030” was launched in April 2021. This document was developed on foot of work carried out by CAROs in 2020 and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on behalf of, and in consultation with, the County and City Management Association’s Environment Climate Change and Emergency Planning (CCMA ECCEP) Committee and the National Local Authority Climate Action Steering Group. The document sets out a vision, mission and a number of strategic goals that are summarised in Figure 4.1. The framework of actions set out within this plan have been developed in line with these goals (see Appendix A).

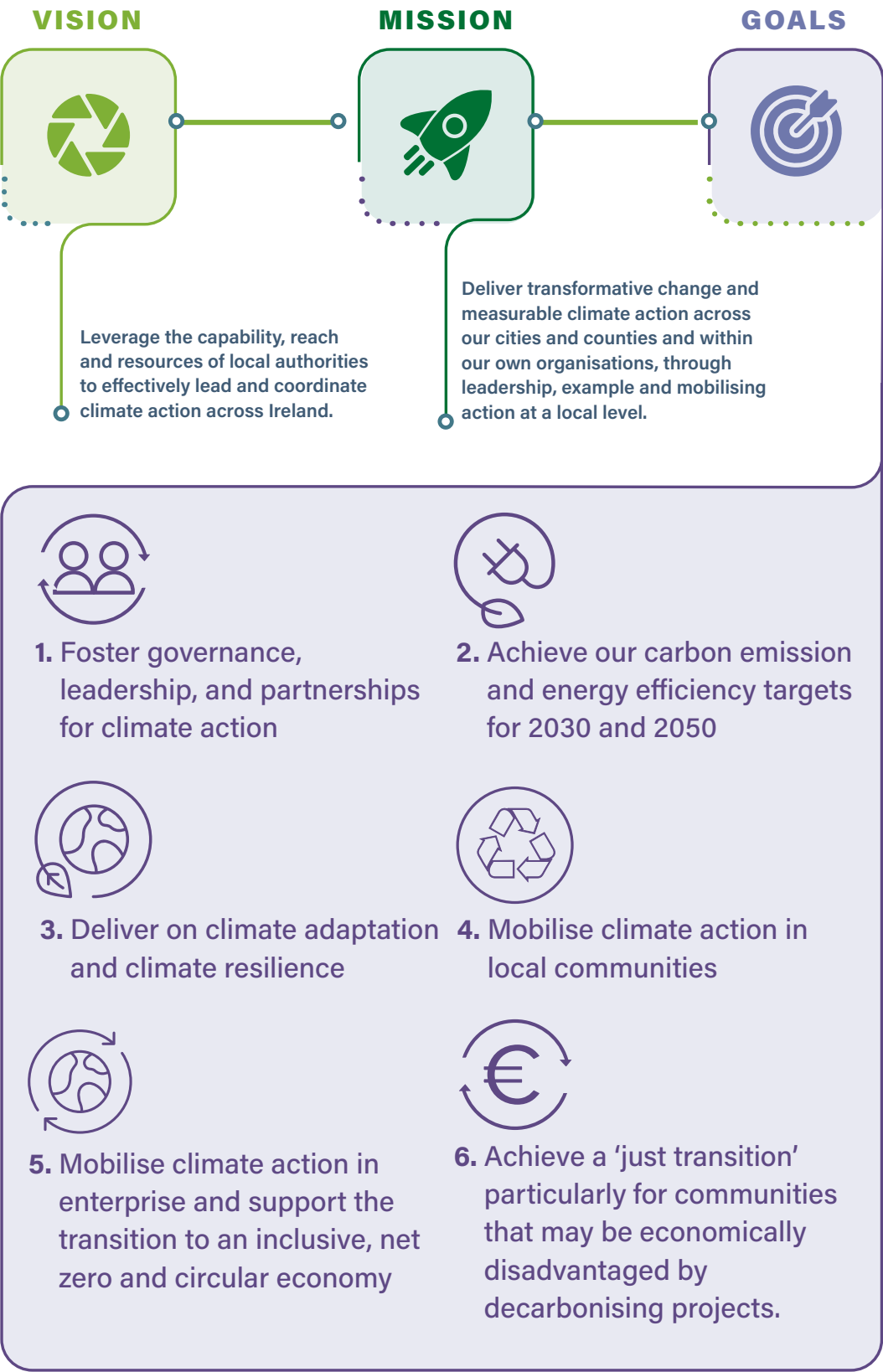


Figure 4.1 DECA Strategic Goals

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

This Plan has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) as required under the relevant legislation. Reports on these processes accompany this plan and formed part of the LACAP public consultation. The findings of these reports are embedded within this LACAP in support of maintaining environmental integrity and form part of the monitoring processes at **Chapter 6**. The following overarching Environmental Governance Principles underpin and frame the actions identified under the thematic areas outlined at Section 4.4 and Decarbonisation Zone Actions contained at Section 5.4. **All activities and development within the remit and control of the Local Authority supported by the Climate Actions identified shall be undertaken in accordance with these Environmental Governance Principles.**



Ref	TABLE 4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES
EG1	Promote Climate Action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
EG2	Support or facilitate Climate Action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
EG3	Ensure local authority development underpinned or supported by plan actions is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No local authority Climate Action related development project that is likely to have significant negative effects on the receiving environment shall be supported.
EG4	Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of flood resilience measures underpinned by plan actions in a manner that supports Climate Action-biodiversity related co-benefits, and which has due regard for the protection and enhancement of rare, protected or important habitats and species.
EG5	Promote the carrying out of Climate Action related projects supported by the plan in a manner that supports Climate Action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and which has due regard to cultural, archaeological or architectural features and sensitivities.
EG6	Promote the carrying out of Climate Action related projects underpinned by the plan in a manner that supports Climate Action water quality co-benefits, and the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives.
EG7	Promote Climate Action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, flood-zones which contribute to green infrastructure.
EG8	Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting Climate Action within the county.
EG9	Ensure local authority projects supported by plan actions have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasive species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No local authority Climate Action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasive species listed in Schedule III shall be supported.
EG10	Support opportunities to promote peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the Climate Actions within the plan.

4.4 THEMATIC FOCUS

Strategic goals were identified across five thematic areas in line with the goals set out in the DECA 2030 strategy (see Appendix A) and to reflect the broad areas of intervention needed to affect Climate Action across the four main focus areas of the plan outlined at Figure 1. These actions are set within the context of the environmental governance principles set out at Section 4.3 above.

The thematic areas are:

- **Governance and leadership**
- **Built Environment and Transport**
- **Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure**
- **Communities; Resilience and Transition**
- **Sustainable resource management**

Objectives were identified to mobilise actions under each area in support of strategic goals, informed by detailed interdepartmental discussion and pre-draft submissions invited from the public. Strategic Environmental and Habitats directive Assessment scoping, including input from the environmental Authorities, also informed the action development process (SEA and AA documentation is contained at [Climate Action - Roscommon County Council \(roscommoncoco.ie\)](https://roscommoncoco.ie)).

Actions outlined are in support of adaptation and mitigation measures and in some cases a combination of both. This alignment supports a holistic approach and facilitates a coordinated response to Climate Action. Recognising cause and effect, the potential to reduce the intensity of impacts in tandem with addressing the ultimate cause, is most effectively achieved at a local level.

4.4.1 GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Governance and leadership is primarily concerned with the internal and operational functions of Roscommon County Council and how these can be used to embed Climate Action throughout the organisation.

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Establish RCC leadership role in the transition to a sustainable, low carbon society, by mainstreaming climate considerations into all aspects of operation, awareness with elected members, staff, customers and the wider community, and influencing behaviours to promote sustainable work and lifestyle choices

TABLE 4.2 GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP OBJECTIVES			
GL	(i)	Translate international, national and regional climate ambitions to a implementable level in accordance with a locally agreed vision	
GL	(ii)	Maintain Climate Actions up to date in line with emerging findings on adaptation and mitigation	
GL	(iii)	Embed the climate agenda across the organisation through corporate functions	
GL	(iv)	Develop, Coordinate and lead Climate Action initiatives at a County level	
GL	(v)	Highlight specific climate adaptation and mitigation issues in the community and across a range of local sectors	
GL	(vi)	Facilitate Climate Action initiatives with external stakeholders	
GL	(vii)	Build capacity within the community to progress Climate Actions	
GL	(viii)	Feed local lessons learned upwards to enhance National responses	

TABLE 4.3 GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
GL 1	Prepare and adopt Roscommon County LACAP in accordance with obligations and to highlight organisational commitment to carbon neutral transition, to periodically review actions to ensure alignment with higher order plans, in line with emerging findings on future climate impacts and new technologies and ensure that relevant findings at local level are fed upwards into national level policy and decision-making	GL (i), (ii) & (viii)	Climate Action Unit	All govt. departments, Sectors, elected members, community, CARO	Q1 2024, Q1 2026, as required
GL 2	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.	GL (v), (vi) & (vii)	Community	CARO, SEAI, LEADER, EMRA (JTF), DECC, DAFM, SEAI, sectoral advisory bodies, PPN, GRETB, RLP	Q4 2024
GL 3	Make Climate Action reporting a standing item at Council, MD and management meetings to maintain visibility, mainstream consideration and deliver on agreed actions	GL (iii)	Governance and Corporate Affairs	Community, all sections	Q2 2024
GL 4	Roll out a targeted training programme for elected members, staff and contractors on the climate considerations relevant to their area of operation to create awareness and promote sustainable behaviours	GL (iii)	Climate Action Unit	CARO, LASNTG, LGMA, CCMA	Q4 2024

TABLE 4.3 GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
GL 5	Incorporate Climate as a standing item in the Integrated Performance management and H&S induction/update systems throughout all sections to maintain profile and implement climate-related actions. Measure and monitor the implementation of Climate Actions as part of a digital, centralised, streamlined tracking and monitoring system for all statutory plans.	GL (iii)	IS Department	All Sections	Q4 2024
GL 6	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	GL (iii), (iv), (v), (vii) & (viii)	Climate Action Unit	Community, PPN, communications	Q 3 2025
GL 7	Compile a baseline of existing and planned internal initiatives underway in support of Climate Action, including paperless strategy (e-recruitment), waste reduction and segregation, bike-to-work, blended working, smarter travel workplaces etc. in addition to larger initiatives in energy and renewables to monitor progress, illustrate achievements to date and highlight where these could be extended and/or improved.	GL (iii), (iv), (v), (vii) & (viii)	Climate Action Unit	HR, NTA	Q1 2025

4.4.2 BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Roscommon County Council influences the built environment in many ways, through the maintenance of its own buildings and infrastructure, to the protection of heritage buildings and structures and the management and enhancement of the public realm in a sustainable way. Climate Action also requires the Council to engage with external agencies, bodies and individuals with a remit for sustainable travel provision and other services. The following objectives and actions also address these sectors.

STRATEGIC GOAL

To lead in the delivery of appropriate amenity and tourism development in line with the principles of just transition, transport management that prioritises the environmental integrity of the county and the health and well-being of its citizens in tandem with sustainable land management and a built environment that reflects the low carbon ambition of RCC.


TABLE 4.4 BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OBJECTIVES 		
BET	(i)	Reduce emissions across all sectors identified at the earliest possible opportunity, prioritising actions related to Transport and Thermal emissions
BET	(ii)	Ensure a climate aware response to operations, works and development across the Council area.
BET	(iii)	Coordinate departments and mobilise communities and other stakeholders in the delivery of Climate Action through capacity building, support to access funding and tailored project development
BET	(iv)	Prioritise actions focussed on areas, operators and sectors with the highest emissions to achieve targets at the earliest opportunity
BET	(v)	Develop internal emissions reduction solutions through the SEAI pathfinder programme and communicate progress to inspire stakeholder action
BET	(vi)	Focus ancillary tourism facilities in established destinations to promote sustainable travel choices, rationalise investment in services and utilities, consolidate destination benefits and protect amenity assets in accordance with appropriate guidance including the National Investment framework for Transport

TABLE 4.5 BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT ACTIONS

No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
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.	BET (i), (ii), (iv) & (v)	Energy, Assets Management	Climate Action Unit, SEAI, DHPLG	Q4 2024
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.	BET (i), (iv) & (v)	Energy, Assets Management	SEAI, Midland energy agency, road management office/Mayo County Council	Q4 2025
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.	BET (i) & (v)	Housing	SEAI, AHBs, DHPLG, RLP	Q4 2025


TABLE 4.5 BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT ACTIONS 					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
BET 4	Promote the development of suitable alternative energy projects in appropriate areas, including on degraded lands in RCC ownership (e.g. historic landfill sites) and particularly those developed and run by communities aligned with the SEC programme and in accordance with the adopted RCC Renewable Energy Strategy (CDP); having due regard to landscape and visual amenity and environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, noise environment, air environment and European Sites, where it is confirmed through a glint and glare assessment that any solar development will not have any potential glint and glare impact on sensitive receptors, or otherwise, where it is confirmed that any solar development constitutes exempted development under the Planning and Development Regulations by virtue of its size or location outside a Solar Safeguarding Zone.	BET (i) & (iii)	Climate Action Unit	SECs, Community, PPN, RLP, state agencies, farming organisations, SEAI, Private Businesses	Q4 2025
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	BET (ii)	Roads and Transportation	Capital Implementation Team, IS Department, LAWPRO, OPW, DHPLG, adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2025
BET 6	Embed water conservation measures throughout all RCC buildings.	BET (ii)	Energy, assets management	Uisce Eireann	Q4 2025


TABLE 4.5 BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT ACTIONS 					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
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.	BET (i)	Roads and Transportation	ZEVI, SEAI	Q4 2025
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.	BET (i)	Roads and Transportation	GNI, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2025
BET 9	Review modal split for staff and Council activities through the development and implementation of a Workplace Travel Plan in conjunction with NTA Smarter Workplaces. Develop a pilot Mobility Hub project for RCC staff in this regard and apply learning to potential external initiatives, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, sensitive human receptors and traffic and transport conditions.	BET (i),(ii) &(iv)	Climate Action Unit	Roads and Transportation, Governance and Corporate Affairs, SEAI, ZEVI	Q4 2025

TABLE 4.5 BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
BET 10	In line with EV strategy findings and recommendations, facilitate enhanced access to charging infrastructure throughout the County, having due regard to relevant environmental sensitivities and available grid/mains capacity.	BET (i), (iii) &(iv)	Roads and Transportation	MEA, ZEVI, Economic Development, Capital Implementation Team, Assets and Energy Management, Planning, DTTAS, Energy/Service providers, Community, Climate Action Unit, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2025
BET 11	Facilitate the prioritised expansion of active travel projects in line with NTA/TFI strategy in high impact urban areas such as Roscommon Town and Athlone. Facilitate the expansion of the local link network in line with the National Transport Investment Framework, Transport for Ireland Strategy and smarter travel initiatives, including advancement of decarbonisation (alternative fuels), physical infrastructure (bus stops, linked cycle and walkways), digital technologies (streamline timetables, payment methods), target dedicated service provision (e.g. education, healthcare, employment, rural) alignment with national, regional and local services and promotion of modal shift. Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of development supported by this action in a manner that has due regard to: relevant environmental sensitivities, including European Sites; and opportunities to promote Nature-Based Solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems.	BET (i), (ii) & (iv)	Roads and Transportation	TII/Active travel, Bus Eireann, Irish Rail, DTTAS, Private Service providers, Age friendly Ireland, Healthy Ireland, Capital Implementation Team, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2024

TABLE 4.5 BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
BET 12	Implement urban place making initiatives, including the reuse and regeneration of vacant, underused and derelict sites in the urban areas throughout the county in accordance with the CDP, LAPs and emerging Town Centre First policy promoting compact urban growth and vibrancy, facilitating modal shift and creating destination assets to focus benefits of regenerative tourism and protect amenity and heritage assets, having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European Sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.	BET (vi)	Economic Development	Town Teams, DHPLG, DRCD, DECC, TFI/Active Travel, Fáilte Ireland, JTF/EMRA, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q1 2026
BET 13	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.	BET (iii)	Climate Action Unit	Town Teams, Community, An Taisce, Economic Development, Capital Implementation government departments and agencies	Q4 2024



4.4.3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

As a predominantly rural County, the natural environment and the enhancement of the green infrastructural resource is of particular importance. A movement towards the use of Nature-Based Solutions, particularly in relation to climate change adaptation, is a significant concern that must be addressed in a strategic way. The following actions address this among the other issues in this significant thematic area.

STRATEGIC GOAL

To protect, enhance and raise awareness of Roscommon’s wealth of natural, archaeological and cultural heritage and identify/address climate related risks to these assets, align with and support Climate Action related policies and initiatives in adopted RCC strategies, plans and sectoral initiatives at regional and national levels

TABLE 4.6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE OBJECTIVES			
NEGI	(i)	Support and align with provisions in the RCC Heritage, Biodiversity and County Development Plans	
NEGI	(ii)	Engage with local stakeholders to progress projects under the regenerative tourism element of the JTF	
NEGI	(iii)	Promote the conservation, sensitive refurbishment and reuse of heritage buildings and structures to prevent collapse, reduce dereliction and vacancy and revitalise urban and village centres	
NEGI	(iv)	To identify and assess climate based risks to heritage and take pre-emptive measures to increase resilience and prevent heritage loss	
NEGI	(v)	Promote the sensitive utilisation of heritage resources to ensure conservation, maintain profile and relevance to the wider public	
NEGI	(vi)	Maintain, augment and enhance green infrastructural resources to provide ecosystem services and amenity benefits	
NEGI	(vii)	Promote heritage, biodiversity and Climate Action awareness in the management and maintenance of Local Authority assets, landbank and properties.	
NEGI	(viii)	Develop a range of pilot initiatives to showcase best practice in heritage, biodiversity and green infrastructure in a Climate Action context.	
NEGI	(ix)	Establish and coordinate appropriate links between the LA and external bodies to mobilise action in the areas of agriculture and renewable energy	

TABLE 4.7 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIONS

No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
NEGI 1	Develop an RCC Green Infrastructure Strategy incorporating policies and programmes across all sections in support of biodiversity and heritage protection and enhancement and associated Climate Action benefits.	NEGI (vi),(vii) & (viii)	Economic Development	Community, Heritage Council, DHPLG, DRCD, DECC, LAWPRO, EMRA/JTF, Roscommon Leader Partnership	Q4 2025
NEGI 2	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	NEGI (i),(ii) & (v)	Economic Development	Community, Heritage Council, DHPLG, DRCD, DECC, LAWPRO, EMRA/JTF, Roscommon Leader Partnership, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2025
NEGI 3	Engage with stakeholders in peatland and forestry management to align with heritage policy and RCC emergency services fire prevention and response provisions. Prepare guidelines for stakeholder use as appropriate. Engage peatland and forestry stakeholders with initiatives and community projects, identify synergies with JTF programme and areas of “added value” for local communities; whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote Climate Action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	NEGI (iv),(v),(vi),(vii) & (viii)	Climate Action unit	National Emergency Response Team, Community, BnM, Coillte, EPA, EMRA/ JTF, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2026

TABLE 4.7 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
NEGI 4	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	NEGI (vi),(vii) & (viii)	Economic Development	Heritage Council, RLP, SEAI, An Taisce	Q4 2025
NEGI 5	Highlight Climate Action issues throughout the RCC event calendar including Arts, Sports, heritage and biodiversity events	NEG(i) (vii)	Climate Action Unit	Arts office, Community	Q4 2024
NEGI 6	Engage with external stakeholders, including semi-state bodies, communities, NGOs and private developers to realise renewable energy ambitions and agricultural emissions reductions set out at national, regional and local level, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote Climate Action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	NEGI (ix)	Climate Action Unit	Community, LAWPRO, RLP, Teagasc, Agricultural organisations, IWEA, IRBEA 3rd level institutions, GRETB, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2025

TABLE 4.7 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
NEGI 7	Establish and coordinate links with relevant state departments, semi-state bodies and advisory agencies in support of the development, application and funding of Climate Action innovations in operations, service delivery and infrastructural provision (including roads programme) at policy/ programme development stage and through targeted education and training programmes in the areas of planning, H&S, roads, regeneration and environment, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure projects promote Climate Action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	NEGI (vii),(viii) & (ix)	Climate Action Unit	HSA, IPA, EPA, 3rd level institutions, Heritage Council, An Taisce GRETB, government departments and agencies, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2025
NEGI 8	Implement the tree management strategy with a focus on native trees to promote enhanced canopy cover within the County including tree protection measures and planting programmes in Local Authority property. Roll out internal training programmes for relevant council staff and contractors and externally for communities, landowners and potential developers on appropriate planting and maintenance for canopy preservation and biodiversity enhancement. Investigate potential system to monitor planting regimes.	NEGI (iv), (v) & (vi)	Climate Action unit	UCD, Heritage Council, An Taisce, RLP, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q2 2024

TABLE 4.7 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
NEGI 9	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	NEGI (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii) & (ix)	Environment	DECC, DAFM, IFA, community, Uisce Eireann, NPWS, LAWPRO, National federation of group water schemes, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2024
NEGI 10	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.	NEGI (i), (v), (vi), (vii) & (viii)	Climate Action Unit	Maynooth University, DECC, DAFM, IFA, community, Uisce Eireann, NPWS, LAWPRO, National federation of group water schemes, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q2 2024



4.4.4 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND TRANSITION

The empowerment of communities in the face of climate change is a particular area of concern for County Roscommon in the context of the Just Transition process which is underway. The following actions recognise and support existing measures in place to address social, economic and environmental equity in terms of Climate Action adaptation and mitigation across the County.

STRATEGIC GOAL

Establish a dedicated Climate Action context within existing RCC social, economic and environmental development structures. Promote enhanced understanding of the extent of future local climate change and associated implications. Developed targeted RCC responses across all operational areas. Protect and empower communities and groups most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the impacts of the transition to a low carbon society

TABLE 4.8 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND TRANSITION OBJECTIVES		
CRT	(i)	Support Climate Action ambition within the LECP, LEADER programme, Creative Ireland Programme, Enterprise Development policy and social and economic structures within and associated with RCC
CRT	(ii)	Ensure that Climate Actions are sufficiently robust to adjust effectively as targeted information becomes available
CRT	(iii)	Align with the Just Transition process to ensure that those communities most affected by the transition to a low carbon society have access to enhanced social, economic and environmental opportunities
CRT	(iv)	Embed climate resilience in design, operation and maintenance of all functional areas within RCC
CRT	(v)	Promote research, innovation and new approaches in the areas of Climate Action adaptation and mitigation
CRT	(vi)	Engage with the business community in the management of food and other wastes in support of a circular economy
CRT	(vii)	Coordinate with representative groups from the agricultural community on how RCC can develop appropriate links to deliver reductions in agricultural emissions over the lifetime of the plan
CRT	(viii)	Engage with the strong County network of community volunteers and support Climate Action efforts across this sector through training, education and appropriate access to funding streams



TABLE 4.9 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND TRANSITION ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
CRT 1	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	CRT (iii), (vi),(vii) & (viii)	Climate Action unit	LEO, Community, Economic Development, NTA, Western Development Commission, Regional Skills forum, NWRA, government departments and agencies, GRETB, 3rd level institutions, RLP, PPN, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2025
CRT 2	Promote innovation, research and capacity building in the Climate Action area in conjunction with the local authority departments, communities and external agencies, including 3rd level institutions and sporting organisations, including engagement with the Green Club Programme, working with the CARO and GAA, in the promotion and support of projects by participating clubs, to meet the objectives, and during key phases of the programme to 2029	CRT (i),(ii) & (iii)	Climate Action Unit	Community, Economic Development, NTA, Western Development Commission, NWRA, Teagasc, government departments and agencies, GRETB, 3rd level institutions, RLP, PPN, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2025
CRT 3	Engage with the business community to progress Climate Action initiatives	CRT (v) & (vi)	Climate Action Unit	SEAI, Town Teams, RLP, DECC	Q4 2025

TABLE 4.9 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND TRANSITION ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
CRT 4	Climate Action proof community grants administered by Roscommon County Council, prioritising projects that can demonstrate improvements in waste minimization, circular economy, energy savings, renewables and behavioural change.	CRT (i),(iii) & (iv)	Climate Action Unit	All grant administering Sections	Q4 2024
CRT 5	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.	CRT (iii) & (v)	Roads and Transportation	LAWPRO, EPA, NPWS, OPW, 3rd level institutions, community groups, Town Teams, SECs	Q4 2025
CRT 6	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	CRT (ii) & (v)	Climate Action Unit	DECC	Q1 2026
CRT 7	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.	CRT (i) & (iii)	Economic Development	JTF/EMRA DECC RLP Communities PPN, BnM, ESB, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q1 2025

TABLE 4.9 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND TRANSITION ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
CRT 8	Identify communities and groups with the potential to be affected by the transition to a low-carbon society as part of overarching national and sectoral policy implementation, including agricultural communities and those employed in associated industries, and including individuals and communities vulnerable to energy poverty. Identify and investigate potential opportunities associated with just transition, including locally based carbon offset initiatives	CRT (vii) & (viii)	Climate Action Unit	SEAI, JTF/EMRA, DECC, RLP, Communities, PPN, BnM, ESB, farming bodies and advisory agencies, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q2 2025



4.4.5 SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Roscommon County has a wide range of natural, built, social and natural capital. The following actions are concerned with channelling these resources in a wise and sustainable way in support of Climate Adaptation and Mitigation.

STRATEGIC GOAL

Establish RCC as a national leader in addressing emissions reduction targets set for RCC assets over the lifetime of this plan, protect infrastructural investment in RCC from the effects of Climate Change, sustainably manage resources in line with CDP land use policy and policy on compact urban growth and develop a thriving Circular Economy in County Roscommon

TABLE 4.10 SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES		
SRM	(i)	Engage the community and agricultural sector in the promotion of waste reduction and circular economic activities by facilitating connections with state agencies and appropriate funding streams
SRM	(ii)	Investigate the expansion of reuse/recycle facilities at civic amenity sites in County Roscommon in support of the Circular Economy
SRM	(iii)	Mobilise support for local Circular Economic initiatives through existing enterprise structures
SRM	(iv)	Engage all citizens in the promotion of waste reduction and Circular Economic activities in daily life
SRM	(v)	Ensure that existing, planned and proposed infrastructure is protected from the future potential effects of Climate Change
SRM	(vi)	Prioritise development of vacant, underused or derelict lands/buildings in serviced urban areas and degraded lands in rural areas as potential locations for spatially-based Climate Actions
SRM	(vii)	Manage RCC assets to achieve national emissions reductions targets.
SRM	(viii)	Promote community awareness of emission reduction potential in transport and encourage more sustainable choices and behaviours



TABLE 4.11 SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
SRM 1	Embed Green procurement into all functional areas of RCC	GL (iii)	Procurement	OGP	Q1 2025
SRM 2	Establish links between community organisations at a local level to develop opportunities in the area of waste reduction, reuse and recycling, provide support as appropriate, to progress, develop and/or expand circular economic activities	SRM (i), (ii) &(iii)	Environment	Community, RLP, EPA, DECC	Q4 2024
SRM 3	Engage with Teagasc and the agricultural community on the potential for emissions reduction, biodiversity enhancement and environmental pollution prevention in conjunction with existing agri-environmental schemes and through the application of innovative technologies in waste management and renewable energy generation	SRM (i)	Climate Action Unit	RLP, Community, Teagasc, DAFM, Farming organisations, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2024
SRM 4	Develop and implement multi-faceted campaigns on the practical need for behavioural change at all levels, work, home and recreation in order to achieve Climate Action ambitions.	SRM (iv)	Climate Action Unit	SEAI, Local Community Organisations, RLP	Q4 2025
SRM 5	Develop, enhance and maintain RCC climate risk monitoring systems.	SRM (v)	Climate Action unit	Uisce Eireann, MET Eireann, DTTAS SEAI LAWPRO	Q4 2025

TABLE 4.11 SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Objectives	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
SRM 6	Prioritise Climate Action based interventions in locations when greatest emissions savings can be achieved, such as EV charging in town centres, prioritising reuse of existing built fabric where services and infrastructure are in place, reuse existing paving/ building material where possible and in line with relevant specifications, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European Sites, local air quality.	SRM (vi)	Climate Action unit	ZEVI, Town Teams, SECs, SEAI, Roads and Transportation, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q4 2024

5. DECARBONISATION ZONE

Each local authority has identified a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within their respective administrative area, which will be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures including the identification of projects and outcomes to assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.

LACAPs have statutory authority through the provisions of Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. Consequently, integrating the DZ as part of the local authority Climate Action plan gives it a statutory footing. As a component of the plan, the DZ is subject to the statutory processes, timeframes and other procedural requirements of making the plan.

Roscommon Town was selected as the decarbonising zone for the County⁶ and, as such, will be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and actions. These are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and locally based initiatives to contribute to national Climate Action targets. Its socioeconomic and physical environmental characteristics have been reviewed and identified as an appropriate fit for the defined DZ criteria.

Decarbonising Zone

A Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) is a spatial area, identified by each local authority in Ireland, in which a range of climate change mitigation measures are identified, whilst enhancing and embracing adaptation and biodiversity measures to contribute to reaching wider national Climate Action targets. DZs are a demonstration and testbed of what is possible for decarbonisation and Climate Action at a local and community level. Through a feedback loop of experimentation and evaluation, the DZ enables a flexible, incremental and community-driven approach to ensure that its objectives are delivered

⁶ in accordance with Action 165 of the National CAP 2019 and Circular LGSM01 - 2021

Figure 5.1 below indicates the extent of the DZ area, which broadly follows the extent of the current Roscommon Town Local Area Plan.



Figure 5.1 Roscommon Town Decarbonisation Zone - Extent

Roscommon Town is the County administrative Centre, with a population of 6,555 in 2022, an increase of almost 12% since 2016. The town has a well-established core area, with significant historic buildings dating from the 13th century that overlie the original settlement that developed from the monastery built by St. Coman in the 5th century, from whom the town gets its name. The town is the administrative centre for the County, housing a range of services, functions and amenities commensurate with a town of its size.

The following outlines the designation criteria applied in the selection of Roscommon town as the DZ for the purposes of this plan.

- ▶ Roscommon County Council have a wide range of public buildings within the DZ area that are included within the SEAI “pathfinder” programme. This programme identifies significant energy users and prioritises the development of energy management plans and their implementation to reduce carbon emissions in line with national targets (51% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2050), through energy efficiency measures and the installation of renewable technologies.
- ▶ Roscommon Transition Town is part of a national network of community teams leading local energy projects. The Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) network comprises of a growing national movement of over 450 such communities. SEAI are supporting these communities to learn, plan and complete energy projects to help Ireland transition to a low carbon future.
- ▶ This Group, with the assistance of Roscommon County Council, are in the process of completing an Energy Master Plan for Roscommon Town, funded by the SEAI. The group have hosted online public webinars with the SEAI mentor to share information about the community energy project, energy efficiency in the home, sustainable energy retrofit options and grants available to groups and households for upgrading the energy efficiency of homes and buildings. This will encourage investment in renewable energy infrastructure and the promotion and encouragement of similar initiatives across the business and private sectors.
- ▶ It is proposed that all new LA Developments will be A-rated with air to water heating. The development of 7 Units at Cluain Fraoigh serve as an exemplar development and secured a community housing award from the Irish Council of Social Housing in 2021. Retrofit and refurbishment of Local Authority Housing units is in progress with an emphasis on energy efficiency.



- ▶ Roscommon town is currently served by the national rail and bus network, and the local link service that covers Counties Westmeath, Longford and Roscommon, along with various private operators within and outside the Council area. RCC will investigate opportunities to align these services and maximise benefit to those commuting to and from the DZ in order to enhance the use of public transport. Active travel projects are underway in Roscommon town to encourage modal shift, aligned with public realm projects underway that promote compact urban growth and reduce the need to travel.
- ▶ Works commenced on Roscommon Town's Public Realm Project in Q1 2021, supported through Project Ireland 2040 as part of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and with matched funding from Roscommon County Council. The project application was supported by Roscommon Town Team and Roscommon Chamber of Commerce. The project will focus on further enhancement of the attractiveness and sustainability of the town centre, including a revised traffic layout, new wider granite footpaths, upgraded links to carparks and lighting and new shared spaces and planting. The project also includes new signage directing people to the town centre, carparks, and public artworks creating an attractive core area to promote compact, sustainable urban development. .
- ▶ Roscommon County Council launched 'Roscommon Connected Communities' Broadband Connection Points (BCP). Connected Communities is an initiative of the Government of Ireland, in partnership with Vodafone to provide free high-speed internet access at publicly accessible sites for remote work, study, community/digital skills training and a host of other digitally enabled services and amenities. The BCP will provide high speed broadband access to communities (within amber area of the NBP), in advance of homes and businesses receiving future-proofed broadband directly to their door and will be supported and enabled in Roscommon Town.
- ▶ Roscommon County Council operates a Civic Amenity Site in Roscommon Town offering a wide range of services, mainly based around recycling of materials. Enforcement of Waste Management Legislation includes Waste Presentation Bye-Laws to ensure use of the three bin system by collectors and households to reduce waste to landfill/incineration.
- ▶ The Council also works closely with the Connaught-Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority to promote the concept of the Circular Economy.
- ▶ The Council's Climate Action Sub-Committee have agreed to consider becoming a Pilot Site for a "Cease Using Single-use Plastic (CUSP) initiative, a private sector initiative, in collaboration with the Roscommon Transition Town (community based group).

- ▶ The Environment Sections works closely with the primary and second level schools in Roscommon Town on a number of initiatives in the Green Schools and Biodiversity areas. The potential to undertake awareness and change initiatives will be explored in more detail under the DZ activities.
- ▶ Loughnaneane Park in the centre of Roscommon is a well-used amenity that has the potential to act as an exemplar in the use of green infrastructure to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Resilience will be ensured by promoting the co-benefits of climate adaptation with targeted citizen awareness and behavioural change while being aware of the enhanced air quality, improved health, biodiversity, lower noise levels and other benefits.
- ▶ Agricultural practices and sustainable land management linked to environmental considerations will be a key message in the Community Engagement element of the DZ Implementation Plan

Following the identification of the DZ and subsequent approval, RCC commissioned KPMG to prepare a baseline analysis of energy and carbon emissions associated with the main activities, and emissions sources, presented by sector, within the DZ area.

Two steps have been undertaken to inform a robust understanding of the energy and carbon emissions within the DZ area, outlined below:

- ▶ A ‘top-down’ overview of carbon emissions within the DZ area, informed by data gathered from the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) MapEire database, has been undertaken. This assessment allows for a ‘helicopter’ overview of the magnitude of emissions within the area and the sectoral hotspots. The purpose of this ‘top-down’ assessment is not to override the ‘bottom-up’ assessment outcomes, but rather to provide an additional layer of context to inform decision making.
- ▶ This ‘top-down’ overview is followed by the Tier 3 ‘Bottom-Up’ assessment approach, informed predominantly by spatial data and the use of geographical information systems (GIS) software and processes. This allows for the mapping of data and information within the DZ area, supporting effective communication and engagement with key internal and external stakeholders. The assessment also includes non-spatial data to support the analysis and future action planning.

Although the Tier 3 approach can provide a more robust evidence base on which to inform the action planning, it relies heavily on the quantity, quality, and variety of the data available for analysis. As more datasets and methodologies are made available, BEIs will improve further and better equip local authorities in their decision making and action planning supporting decarbonisation and Climate Action.

5.1 DECARBONISATION ZONE BASELINE EMISSIONS

The results of the ‘bottom-up’ Tier 3 assessment are presented in Figure 5.3 below. Total carbon emissions equate to approximately 48,748 tCO₂e. This translates to 9.46 tCO₂e per capita based on 2016 census population data. In 2018, Ireland’s national carbon emissions equated to approximately 12.6 tCO₂e per capita. While the DZ’s carbon emissions per capita is lower than the national equivalent, Ireland is significantly higher than the EU average of 8.2 tCO₂e per capita.

	Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)
Residential	12,618
Commercial & Public Sector	23,034
Transport	12,015
Waste	1,081
Total carbon emissions	48,748
Total carbon emissions per capita (tCO ₂ e/capita)	9.46

TOTAL CARBON EMISSIONS IN THE DZ (tCO₂E)

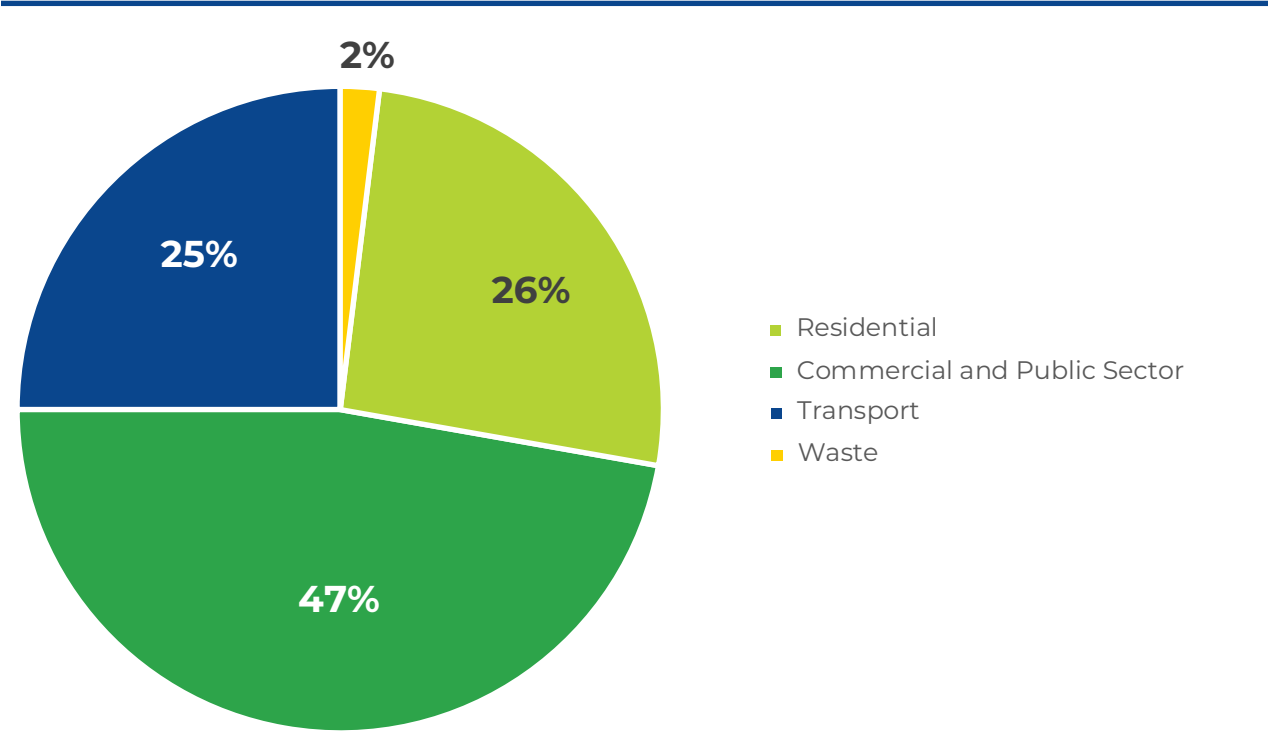


Figure 5.2 Breakdown of emissions per sector in the DZ

5.1.1 DECARBONISATION ZONE - KEY RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Carbon emissions within an area, such as the DZ area, generally reflect trends such as the level of economic activity, energy use and, potentially, growth. The challenge for this DZ area (and other areas) is to allow for continued growth and improvement whilst reducing carbon emissions in a just and meaningful manner.

This report highlights the carbon hotspots within the DZ area:

- ▶ Residential Sector (including Social Housing),
- ▶ Commercial and Public Sector
- ▶ Transport Sector

The waste sector, although a smaller impact in comparison to those just mentioned, should also be focussed on given its transboundary nature and the level of influence the Local Authority can have on its impact on carbon emissions.

Roscommon County Council considered a range of measures to reduce carbon emissions within these sectoral hotspots outlined in the register of opportunities for action planning at Appendix C.

RESIDENTIAL (INCLUDING SOCIAL HOUSING):

Achieving a low carbon housing stock is key to enabling Roscommon County Council to contribute to national carbon reduction targets.

Existing and proposed and/or new residential developments need to be targeted and suitable measures considered to optimise energy efficiencies and carbon emissions reductions.

For existing residential housing stock, retrofitting should be undertaken to take all housing stock to a BER rating of B2 – as noted in the report, the DZ area includes B3 rated buildings to F rated buildings. The government has committed to providing increased funding to accelerate retrofitting, including free upgrades for low-income households.

Roll-out of energy management systems and smart meters to council owned buildings, such as social housing is an effective measure to manage and understand energy use and trends in demand.

Potential for renewable energy heat sources should be explored including the installation of heat pumps at existing residential units as well as new developments and use of renewable gas.

Potential areas for district heating should also be explored.

For proposed and new residential developments, it is vital that ambitious building standards (including Nearly Zero Energy Building standard and Zero Emission Building standard) are followed to achieve net zero buildings where renewable energy sources are optimised and circular design principles are followed

COMMERCIAL & PUBLIC SECTOR:

Similar to the residential sector, optimising the energy efficiency of existing commercial and public sector buildings is key to meeting national carbon targets.

A retrofitting programme to upgrade existing buildings is required to optimise the energy efficiency of current building stock which range between C1 BER rated to G BER rated buildings.

Opportunities for use of renewable energy should also be explored including the use of heat pumps and renewable gas for commercial buildings.

As highlighted in the report, a number of public sector and protected buildings are present within the DZ area. There is no 'one size fits all' solution to the decarbonisation of these buildings.

Roscommon County Council have an Energy Performance Officer at management level and a dedicated Energy officer in place that engage with the Midland Energy Agency in support of decarbonisation initiatives

Local Authorities can avail of a range of SEAI supports promoting energy efficiency such as the Pathfinder Programme, which supports building energy retrofits. In addition, the SEAI Gap to Target Tool allows Local Authorities to plan and prioritise building retrofit projects in light of 2030 targets.

Appropriate knowledge and skills are required to enable energy efficiency improvements in protected buildings – to understand, specify and install appropriate retrofitting within these protected buildings, specialists are required.

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 and protected buildings.

Leveraging the public procurement process can embed low carbon, sustainable criteria at the earliest stages of new public sector building developments.

TRANSPORT:

A shift to active travel and increased uptake of public transport is key to the achievement of Ireland’s national carbon targets.

One of the ten National Strategic Outcomes set out in the National Planning Framework (NPF) is sustainable mobility. The provision of sustainable modes of travel such as public transport, walking and cycling will contribute towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Several actions are outlined in the Roscommon County Development Plan that seek to expand sustainable transport infrastructure within the county, including opting for transport options that reduce overall carbon emissions and promoting a general shift towards the use of public transport. These are supported and actioned as part of the CAP actions and will be further explored as part of the DZ.

For a rural area, such as the Roscommon DZ area, the role of public transport is very important to reduce reliance on high emitting transport modes, such as private car use.

Roscommon County Council will explore the most effective ways in which they can improve and promote public transport and active travel in this rural area.

In addition, investment in electric vehicles (EVs), increased charging facilities are part of the solution.

WASTE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY:

Local authorities play a key role in minimising waste and embracing circular economy principles. They often have a specific level of control over the management of waste within a region and also can leverage influence over resident’s behaviours and attitude towards waste.

The development of a waste management plan for (or encompassing) the DZ area will be developed, embracing circular economy principles, to support the achievement of national waste targets. This plan will allow for the understanding of waste streams within the DZ area, supporting effective management at source rather than at end of life.

Figure 5.3 below summarises the 2018 baseline emissions inventory for the DZ and the reduction required to meet 2030 targets, upon which the following goals and objectives are based and the enabling actions developed.

	Carbon Emissions (tCo2-e) 2018	Carbon Emissions (tCo2-e) 2030 target	Reductions required (tCo2-e)
Residential	12,618	6435.18	6,183
Commercial and Public Sector	23,034	11747.34	11286.66
Transport	12,015	6127.65	5887.35
Waste	1,081	551.31	529.69
Total Carbon Emissions	48,748	24861.48	23886.52
Total Carbon Emissions Per Capita	9.46	4.8246	4.6354

Figure 5.3 2018 Baseline Emissions Inventory for DZ

Figure 5.4 indicates carbon emission reductions required to meet 2030 targets.

It should be noted that electricity emissions, while accounting for a considerable percentage, will continue on a steady downward trajectory given the extent of renewables in the mix, which will increase in line with government policy and indicates additional actions required to meet targets in the remaining areas.

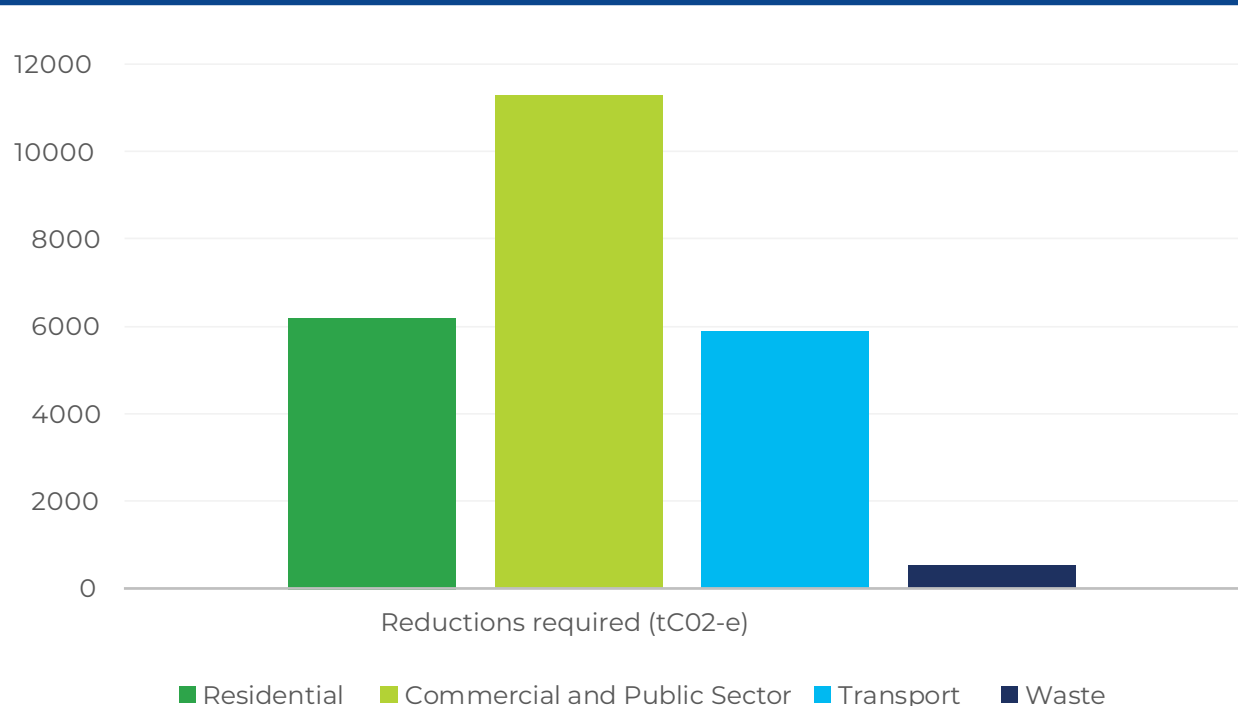


Figure 5.4 Carbon Emissions reductions required to meet 2030 Target

5.2 DECARBONISATION ZONE VISION AND MISSION

Having reviewed the baseline emissions inventory for the DZ and the potential opportunities for RCC to mobilise Climate Action on this basis, the following vision and mission were developed;

Vision

A community that builds on its success, creates new prospects and showcases innovation and creativity in shaping future economic, social and environmental development in the context of Climate Action and just transition

Mission

Roscommon County Council, through collaboration and engagement with the local community, businesses, individuals, state agencies, departments and relevant bodies, will deliver an ambitious range of Climate Actions in Roscommon Town to showcase innovation and secure opportunities in the transition to a carbon neutral economy

5.3 DECARBONISATION ZONE – STRATEGIC GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

STRATEGIC GOAL

Establish Roscommon as a national leader in addressing emissions reduction targets for RCC assets over the lifetime of this plan, protect infrastructural investment in Roscommon Town from the effects of Climate Change, sustainably manage resources in line with adopted land use policy and the principles of compact urban growth, while establishing a thriving Circular economy.

TABLE 5.1 DECARBONISATION ZONE OBJECTIVES

RTDZ	(i)	Undertake retrofitting on existing housing stock to achieve BER rating of B2 and develop facilities to measure, manage and understand energy use and trends in demand.
RTDZ	(ii)	Develop education and awareness around energy efficiency in residential settings
RTDZ	(iii)	Promote the achievement of NZEB standard - investigate the application of low-carbon alternatives and renewable energy
RTDZ	(iv)	Optimise the energy efficiency of existing commercial and public sector buildings to meet national carbon targets and realise RCC role as a leader in the low carbon transition process in the built environment.
RTDZ	(v)	Leverage the public procurement process to embed low carbon, sustainable criteria at the earliest stages of new public sector building developments.
RTDZ	(vi)	Support the policy provisions contained in the RCC CDP 2022-'28 Chapter 8 in terms of supporting and promoting research and development facilities in support of renewable energy
RTDZ	(vii)	Support the policy provisions contained in the RCC CDP 2022-'28 Chapter 8 in support of prioritising nature-based solutions to develop climate resilient urban and rural communities
RTDZ	(viii)	Support the policy provisions contained in the RCC CDP 2022-'28 Chapters 7 & 8 and the Roscommon Town Approaches and Movement Study (RCC 2023), in terms of integrating land use and transport, promoting active travel and public transport use and the production of an area based transport plan for Roscommon town, and any supporting policy to be contained in the upcoming RTLAP
RTDZ	(ix)	Support the policy provisions contained in the RCC CDP 2022-'28 Chapters 7& 8 in the context developing waste management and circular economic solutions.
RTDZ	(x)	Build capacity in the local and business community, supported by a robust RCC internal Climate Action network throughout all its functions, to support waste minimisation and the circular economy in Roscommon town
RTDZ	(xi)	Provide targeted support for external initiatives such as innovation and knowledge sharing hubs for the local and business community, utilising specialist operators and 3rd level institutions.

5.4 DECARBONISATION ZONE ACTIONS

TABLE 5.2 DECARBONISATION ZONE ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Lead	Data	Partners	Time-frame
1	RCC will develop projects and programmes of Citizen engagement and awareness raising to promote behavioural change across the DZ area, aligned where possible with other RCC initiatives in the areas of regeneration and the circular and night-time economies.	Climate Action Unit	Suite of supported awareness initiatives designed and implemented.	Roscommon Transition Town, Chamber of Commerce, Roscommon Town Team, Roscommon Women's Network, SEAI, REPAK, LEADER, 3rd Level, Rediscovery centre, Individual communities	Q4 2025
2	RCC will embrace its lead role in minimising waste and embracing circular economy principles and to leverage influence over resident's behaviours and attitude towards waste and to build capacity in the local and business community to support waste minimisation and the circular economy in Roscommon town and provide support as appropriate, to progress, develop and/or expand circular economic activities	Climate Action Unit	Figures (baseline and annual) on segregation of wastes/attendance at Roscommon civic amenity site, Number of waste minimisation/ recycling initiatives supported and implemented through community Climate Action programme in DZ, including Circular Economic projects initiated	Roscommon Transition Town, Chamber of Commerce, Roscommon Town Team, Roscommon Women's Network, SEAI, REPAK, LEADER, 3rd Level, Rediscovery centre, Community	Q4 2024
3	RCC will roll out internal capacity building initiatives to equip employees with the knowledge and skills to promote decarbonisation in the DZ	Climate Action Unit	Internal training events carried out, numbers attending	H&S, CARO, LASNTG	Q4 2024
4	Develop a climate change risk and vulnerability assessment against which proposed public and private development within the DZ can be proofed.	Climate Action Unit	Risk assessment completed, target areas addressed.	LAWPRO, NPWS, OPW, Met Eireann, GSI	Q4 2024

TABLE 5.2 DECARBONISATION ZONE ACTIONS

No.	Action	Lead	Data	Partners	Time-frame
5	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.	Climate Action Unit	Nature based solutions installed and/or enhanced in the DZ area as part of RCC or private development/ refurbishment/ regeneration	LAWPRO, NPWS, OPW, EPA	Q4 2024
6	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.	Climate Action Unit	Completion of Strategy and incorporation into relevant functional areas.	LAWPRO, NPWS, OPW, Private Developers, Communities, Tidy Towns Groups	Q4 2024
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.	Housing	BER Ratings, Energy heat map	GNI, ESB and energy providers, Business Community, Roscommon Transition Town	Q4 2024

TABLE 5.2 DECARBONISATION ZONE ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Lead	Data	Partners	Time-frame
8	Explore renewable energy heat sources including the installation of heat pumps at existing residential units as well as new developments and the potential of renewable gas and district heating, 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.	Climate Action Unit	Number/value of Government grants secured in DZ for retrofitting	Housing, GNI, ESB and energy providers, Roscommon Transition Town	Q4 2024
9	In addition to statutory requirements, engage with SEAI on a potential retrofitting programme to promote upgrade of existing commercial premises to optimise the energy efficiency of current building stock, create opportunities for use of renewable energy, including the use of heat pumps and renewable alternatives for commercial 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.	Climate Action Unit	BER Ratings, Energy heat map, Number/value of Government grants secured in DZ for retrofitting, Number/value of Government grants secured in DZ for retrofitting	GNI, ESB and energy providers, Business Community,	Q4 2024

TABLE 5.2 DECARBONISATION ZONE ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Lead	Data	Partners	Time-frame
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.	Assets/Energy Management	Number of projects completed and progress in gap-to-target tool, Monitoring and reporting	SEAI	Q1 2025
11	Engage with owners/ occupiers to enhance awareness to develop appropriate knowledge and skills required to enable energy efficiency improvements in heritage buildings, including specialists to help understand, specify and install appropriate retrofitting to reduce carbon footprint while retaining architectural and heritage integrity. Roll out tailored education scheme in this regard and engage with national funding streams for implementation, whilst promoting consideration of environmental protection requirements during such works.	Heritage	Target buildings and owners consulted, specialists engaged and scheme implemented, number of participants in programme, extent of funding secured, BER improvements across heritage buildings in DZ	Roscommon Town Team, Building owners, SEAI, Heritage Council, OPW, DHPLG	Q1 2025

TABLE 5.2 DECARBONISATION ZONE ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Lead	Data	Partners	Time-frame
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.	Economic Development	Incorporation at procurement and design stage of major regeneration and infrastructure projects. Number of projects addressed	Capital Implementation Team Roads Environment, TII, DHPLG, NTA, JTF/ZEVI, Roscommon Town Team, SEAI, Heritage Council, DHPLG	Q4 2024
13	RCC will engage with rural transport service providers and communities to explore the most effective ways in which they meet the needs of communities and improve and promote public transport and active travel. RCC will promote the expansion of smarter travel workplace mobility strategies across the DZ area.	Climate Action Unit	Report completed on engagement with rural transport and major trip generators in the DZ, number of workplace mobility strategies completed for DZ	Major Employers, Healthcare, education and Service providers, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q1 2025

TABLE 5.2 DECARBONISATION ZONE ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Lead	Data	Partners	Time-frame
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.	Climate Action Unit	Identification of appropriate sites, chargers installed and operating, number of charging hours/ vehicles per day	ZEVI, Town Regen, Economic Development & Tourism, SEAI, Roscommon Transition Town	Q1 2024
15	RCC will progress the development of a waste management strategy for the DZ to facilitate understanding of waste streams within the DZ, supporting effective management at source rather than at end of life.	Environment	Food waste prevention scheme developed and operational, Deposit Return Scheme underway, Enhanced public recycling facilities at street level (e.g. solar bins) and at Roscommon Civic Amenity Site, Number of awareness/training events carried out	DECC, Housing, REPAK, Waste service provider, Roscommon Transition Town, Adjoining Local Authorities	Q1 2025
16	Initiate a study on the potential for alternative heat sources, including geothermal potential, within the Roscommon Town DZ area for residential, commercial, community and public sector/institutional application	Climate Action Unit	Completion of study and implementation of recommendations	Housing, ESB, GNI, DECC	Q4 2025
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.	Climate Action Unit	Complete EOI process and assess responses, compile register Mobilise response and implement retrofits	ESB, GNI DECC	Q4 2024

TABLE 5.2 DECARBONISATION ZONE ACTIONS					
No.	Action	Lead	Data	Partners	Time-frame
18	Investigate potential collaboration with agricultural operators within the DZ on the potential to monitor and reduce GHG emissions in collaboration with advisory agencies and 3rd level institutions.	Roads (BBO)	Participants and agencies engaged, Tailored monitoring system progressed	Teagasc, DAFM, Climate Action Unit	Q4 2026



6. IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING

6.1 PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Climate Action Plan will be implemented by Roscommon County Council. Whilst the plan requires a whole-of-Council approach, the ownership of the Plan is held within the Climate Action Unit that currently sits under the Environment Section of Roscommon County Council.

The Climate Action Unit was established in Roscommon County Council in 2023. This team includes a Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer. Reporting on energy use and carbon emissions as part of RCC activities and operations is carried out by the Energy and Assets Management Section.

The primary role of the Climate Action Unit is to mainstream Climate Action into the activities of Roscommon County Council, monitor the implementation of the actions of the Climate Action Plan and to coordinate the reporting and evaluation of the Plan, following its adoption by the Elected Members. The core Climate Action Unit is supported by the wider Climate Action team across the organisation that consists of senior representatives of each department and have ownership of particular actions in the Plan. The Climate Action Unit will also be the point of contact for the public to learn about Climate Action in the County.

Roscommon County Council will work collaboratively and in partnership with a range of key stakeholders to support the delivery of this Plan. These partnerships can provide opportunities for collaboration on projects, shared learnings, technical support and leveraging of funding opportunities during the implementation of actions in the Plan.

It is also clear that climate change is a transboundary challenge; it does not stop at political and geographical borders. As such, a regional approach has been agreed by the local authorities in the Midlands and eastern CARO whereby they can collaborate closely on the implementation of the Climate Action Plans.

Following approval of the Plan, an Implementation Plan/Summary will be developed for each action, which will set out in detail how the action will be delivered including, noting the responsible department and timescales. Roscommon County Council will align the timing of internal implementation reporting intervals with that of sectoral progress reporting requirements.

Stakeholders

The range of stakeholders involved in the delivery of plan actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ *Neighbouring local authorities of Longford, Westmeath, Leitrim, Offaly, Sligo, Mayo and Galway,*
- ▶ *The Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office,*
- ▶ *The Midlands Energy Agency*
- ▶ *The Local Authority Services National Training Group*
- ▶ *Northern and Western Regional assembly,*
- ▶ *The Local Government Management Agency*
- ▶ *The City and County Management Agency*
- ▶ *Transport Infrastructure Ireland*
- ▶ *National Transport Authority*
- ▶ *Fáilte Ireland*
- ▶ *The Public Participation Network*
- ▶ *Age Friendly Ireland*
- ▶ *Comhairle na nÓg*
- ▶ *Community and Business organisations*

Government agencies and sectoral organisations are key stakeholders in the delivery of actions related to RCCs role as an advocate for the community, acting as a bridge in sectoral areas that are out of LA direct control, e.g. agriculture, transport, energy. Effective collaboration is essential to break out of siloed thinking and ensure a holistic and integrated approach to Climate Action

Roscommon County Council will continue to actively pursue new and existing funding opportunities from both European and National bodies that are aligned with its Climate Action objectives.

Partnerships are also a key ingredient towards realising low carbon solutions for the sector. The private sector is already playing a role towards achieving the National Climate Objective and this type of collaboration can enhance the capabilities of the sector even further in achieving reductions in Ireland's greenhouse gases by 51% by 2030 and becoming climate neutral by no later than 2050. There are also benefits for the local government sector in partnering with the Third Level sector. The Third Level sector can provide research and development expertise to help local authorities and implement innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. These partnerships can also help local authorities access funding opportunities for Climate Action projects and initiatives. Roscommon County Council will encourage and facilitate collaboration with the private sector and Third Level sector where possible.

6.3 TRACKING PROGRESS THROUGH KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance on the delivery of energy efficiency and emission reductions relating to the Council's infrastructure and assets, as prescribed by national climate obligations, will continue to be tracked through the established Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system managed by the Sustainable Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

For actions outside of this, one of the reporting avenues to communicate progress on the delivery of actions is through Sectoral Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This informs the performance of the local government sector on Climate Action.

Strengthened Climate Action policy at national level inspired a determined response and commitment by local government, as a sector. This commitment is set out in the County and City Management Association (CCMA) published strategy on behalf of local government entitled Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030⁷ (DECA 2021).

A key consideration for the local government sector on this strengthened role on Climate Action is accountability, and in particular the ability to track, measure and report on progress in delivering effective Climate Action at both local authority and sectoral levels. In this regard, KPIs will continue to play a significant role.

7 Published 14th April 2021: County and City Management Association [CCMA] (2021): Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030: Local authority sector strategy for delivering on the Climate Action Charter and Climate Action Plan. Dublin: Local Government Management Agency [LGMA]. Available online at: [delivering-effective-climate-action-2030.pdf \(lgma.ie\)](#)

6.2 FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

To lead by example and drive the transition to a climate neutral society, Roscommon County Council will need access to adequate funding for Climate Action projects towards achieving its 2030 and 2050 targets. Local authorities can access various types of funding such as government grants, European funds, private sector investment and community co-financing. It is recognised that while new Climate Action targeted funding calls may become available in the future, already established funding bodies will introduce or increase the level of funding streams to Climate Action focused categories.

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

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

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

6.4 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

- ▶ To ensure that delivery is timely, the implementation of the Plan will be monitored via an in-house tracking system to be developed as per Action GL 5. The local authority will also facilitate reporting to elected members on an annual basis.
- ▶ Roscommon County Council will continue to report on their energy performance and emission targets annually to the SEAI through the Energy and Assets Management Section.



- ▶ Roscommon County Council will report annually on their performance on Climate Action by way of KPIs (as outlined in Section 6.3) to inform the performance of the local government sector on Climate Action, as part of the local government DECA 2030 Strategy.
- ▶ In accordance with part 3(w) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter, Roscommon County Council will report quarterly/annually to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Environment on progress on Climate Action at local level as part of the delivery of the national climate objective. Progress on all actions will be reported via a reporting tool developed by CARO.
- ▶ 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.” Ireland’s Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024, intends to build on the role of local government in Ireland and incorporates specific actions to do so, including
 - ▶ Showcasing, sharing and building on existing initiatives
 - ▶ Capacity building and awareness raising
 - ▶ Embedding the SDGs in Governance and reporting frameworks
 - ▶ Incorporating the SDGs within local planning frameworks
 - ▶ Community Engagement



Local authorities are recognised as one of Agenda 2030’s nine “Major Groups”, which play a crucial role in sustainable development 31 and Agenda 2030 also highlights the particular role of local authorities and communities in sustainable urban development.

- Roscommon County Council is working to advance the SDGs, including through
- ▶ the incorporation of the SDGs into their Corporate and County Development Plans;
 - ▶ joining/establishing local and/or international partnerships;
 - ▶ development of a mapping tool to map SDG-related actions in the Council area
 - ▶ the provision of training and
 - ▶ holding information events with external groups including universities, PPNs, Tidy Towns Groups and Creative Ireland.

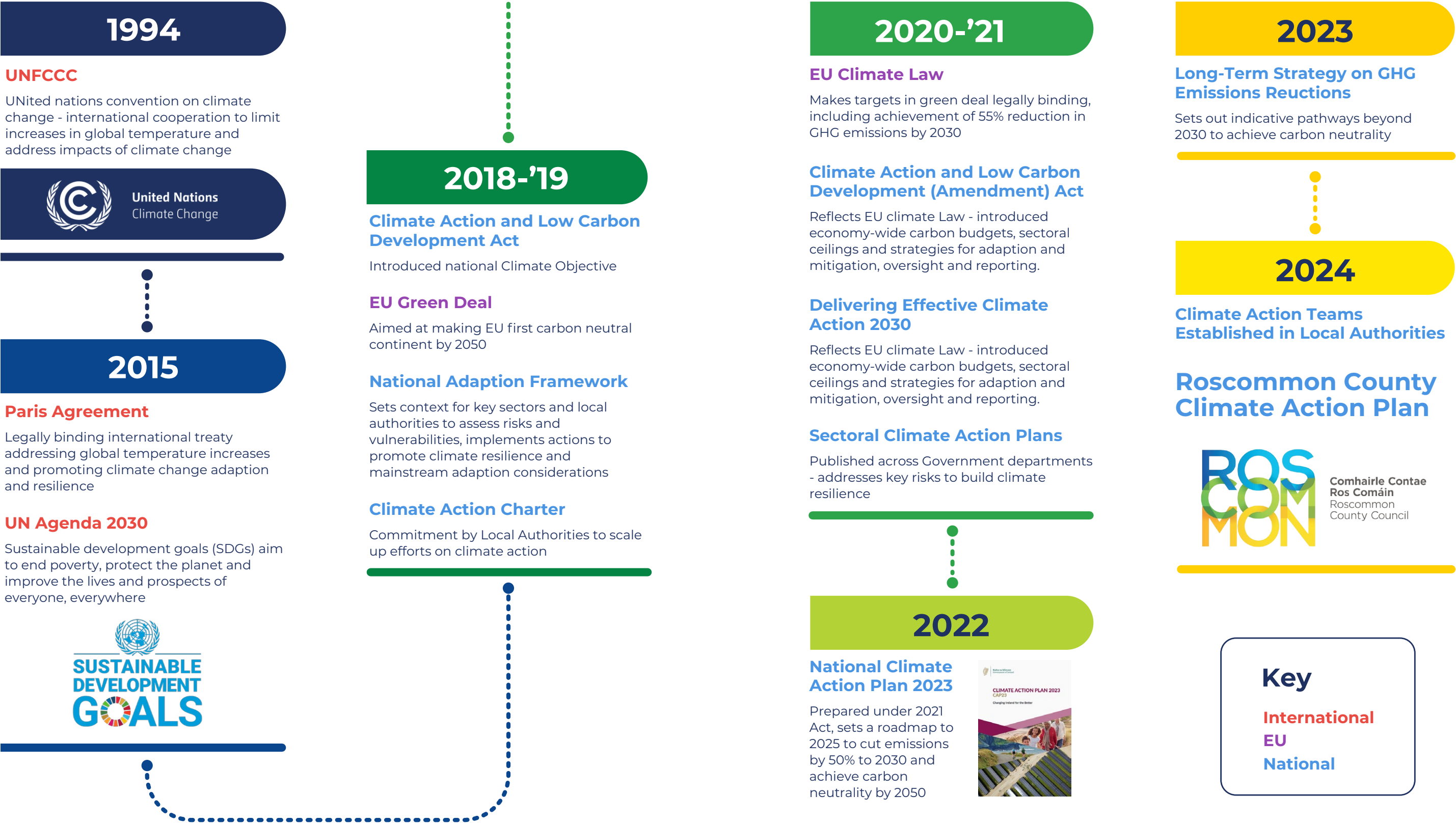
Appendix A outlines the relationship between each of the Actions and the Sustainable Development Goals.

ALIGNMENT OF ACTIONS WITH DELIVERING EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION, 2030 (CARO, LGMA, CCMA ECCEP)							
DECA Goals	1. Foster governance, leadership, and partnerships for Climate Action	2. Achieve our carbon emission and energy efficiency targets for 2030 and 2050	3. Deliver on climate adaptation and climate resilience		4. Mobilise Climate Action in local communities	5. Mobilise Climate Action in enterprise and support the transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy	6. Achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects
GL 1	*	*	*		*	*	*
GL 2	*	*	*		*	*	*
GL 3	*	*	*		*	*	*
GL 4	*	*	*		*	*	*
GL 5	*	*	*		*	*	*
GL 6	*	*	*		*	*	*
GL 7	*	*	*			*	
GL 8	*	*	*			*	*
BET 1	*	*				*	*
BET 2	*	*					
BET 3	*	*			*	*	*
BET 4	*	*	*		*	*	*
BET 5	*		*			*	*
BET 6	*	*	*				
BET 7	*	*					
BET 8	*	*			*	*	*
BET 9	*	*			*	*	*
BET 10	*	*			*	*	*
BET 11	*	*			*	*	*
BET 12	*	*	*		*	*	*
BET 13	*	*	*		*	*	*
NEGI 1	*	*	*		*	*	*
NEGI 2	*		*				*
NEGI 3	*	*	*		*	*	*
NEGI 4	*	*	*		*		*
NEGI 5	*				*	*	
NEGI 6	*	*	*		*	*	*
NEGI 7	*	*	*		*	*	*
NEGI 8	*	*	*		*		
NEGI 9	*	*	*		*	*	*
NEGI 10	*				*		
CRT 1	*	*	*		*	*	*
CRT 2	*	*	*		*	*	*
CRT 3	*	*	*		*	*	*
CRT 4	*	*	*		*	*	*
CRT 5	*		*		*		*
CRT 6	*	*	*		*	*	*
CRT 7	*	*	*		*	*	*
CRT 8	*	*	*		*	*	*
SRM 1	*	*	*		*	*	*
SRM 2	*	*	*		*	*	*
SRM 3	*	*	*		*	*	*
SRM 4	*	*	*		*	*	*
SRM 5	*	*	*		*		

APPENDIX B. POLICY CONTEXT

Figure F1 below illustrates the relationship between international and national Climate Action policy and its evolution over recent times.

Climate Policy Timeline



The LACAP is set within an evolving policy framework from international to local level that aims to align all available mechanisms in pursuit of carbon neutrality by 2050. Figure F2 below summarises and illustrates these connections at a national level.



Figure B2: Summary of national Policy Context

In 2022, the Council facilitated citizen and stakeholder engagement initiatives, including the Government’s National Dialogue on Climate Action (NDCA), in particular local ‘Climate Conversations’ led by the Public Participation Network (PPN). Outcomes from the 2022 NDCA programme suggests that there is a high level of awareness of climate change among the Irish people, and they want to get involved in Climate Action. The findings of the 2022 engagement programme have also shown that there is a willingness to engage in Climate Action, but people may not know which actions are most effective or where to start acting. Further enabling citizen and stakeholder engagement can make it possible to realise the opportunities that a transition to a carbon-neutral society and economy presents, such as new sustainable careers, warmer more energy-efficient homes, better travel options, more sustainable consumer choice, integrated spatial planning, cleaner air and water and a better environment for future generations.

Figure G3 summarises some of the needs of participants in online ‘Climate Conversations’, as part of the National Climate Dialogue. It clearly shows that we as a local authority have an important role in enabling citizens to engage in Climate Action, through the services we provide.

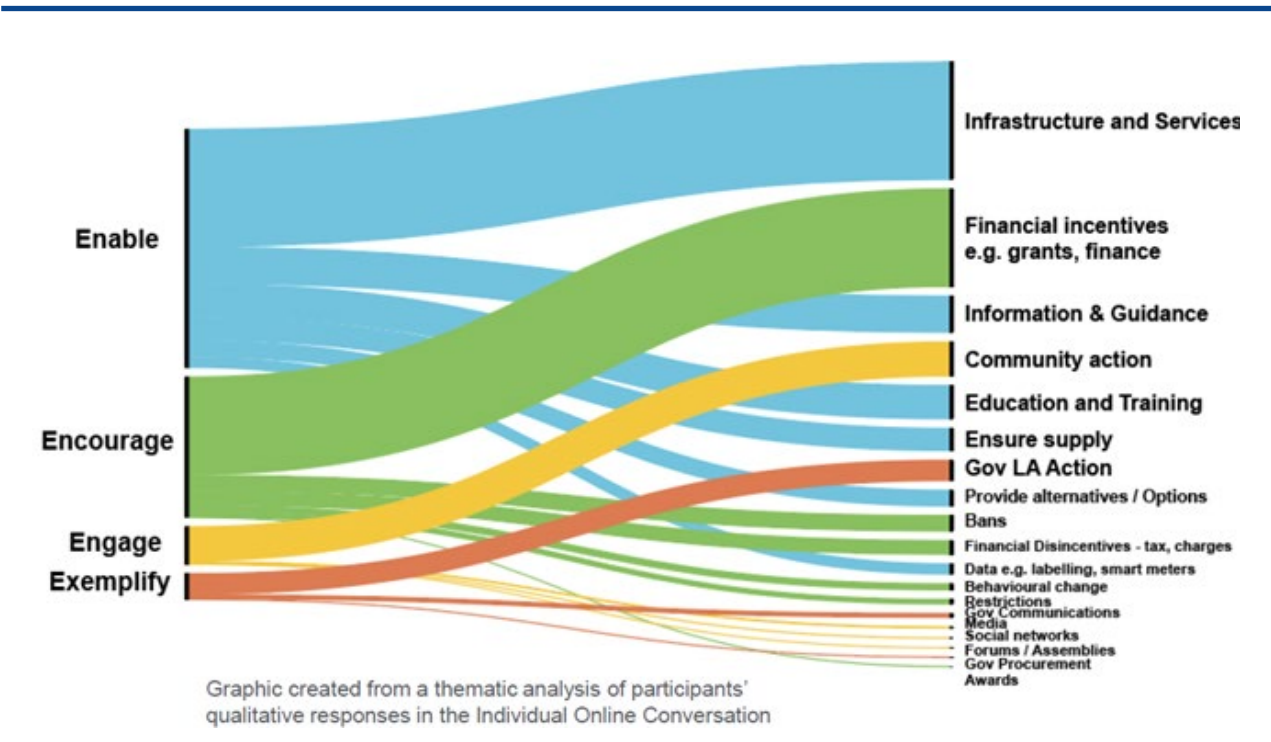


Figure F3: Summary of findings of the ‘Climate Conversations’ online responses

(Source: Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications/MCo)



APPENDIX C. ROSCOMMON TOWN DECARBONISATION ZONE REGISTER OF OPPORTUNITIES						
	Opportunity	Time Horizon	Impact	Cost Range	Possible Funding Sources	Status
1	RCC will build capacity in the local and business community to support energy efficiency, water quality, nature-based solutions, renewable technologies, waste minimisation and promotion of the circular economy in Roscommon town.	Quick Win	Medium	Low	Use existing communications systems, engage sectoral experts – SEAI, Teagasc, OPW etc.	In progress
2	Support the development of community-based activities focused on the growth of the circular economy within the DZ, promoting the use of innovative measures to address specific waste streams in line with the established waste hierarchy.	Medium	High	High	SEAI, EU projects, community Climate Action fund, LA own resources	In progress
3	Support Roscommon Transition Town Sustainable Energy Community in the development and implementation of an Energy Management Plan for the wider Roscommon town area, incorporating the Decarbonisation Zone.	Quick Win	Medium	Low	SEAI	Planned
4	Engage with tidy towns Groups, businesses and the farming community on the potential contribution of environmental management and agriculture to the transition to a low-carbon, sustainable DZ	Long	High	High	SEAI, DAFM, Teagasc, Community Climate Action	Not Started

APPENDIX C. ROSCOMMON TOWN DECARBONISATION ZONE REGISTER OF OPPORTUNITIES						
	Opportunity	Time Horizon	Impact	Cost Range	Possible Funding Sources	Status
5	Develop a climate change risk and vulnerability assessment, including infrastructure assets and waterbodies identified as vulnerable under the RBMP. 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, and the protection of waterbodies that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change	Medium	Medium	Medium	Private Development, DHPLG, Active Travel, Housing for all, OPW, LAWPRO	In progress
6	Incorporate ecological and biodiversity auditing and mapping on local authority owned land within the DZ in the forthcoming heritage and biodiversity plans. Identify areas suitable for restoration/carbon sequestration as part of this process. Promote the sustainable management practices in Loughnaneane Park in support of achieving “Green Flag” status. Implement the provisions of the Tree Management Strategy in all RCC functional areas within the DZ to promote canopy health and expansion and enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity.	Medium/ Long	Medium	Medium	LA own funds/ MDs, Private developers, community funds	Planned but not started

APPENDIX C. ROSCOMMON TOWN DECARBONISATION ZONE REGISTER OF OPPORTUNITIES						
	Opportunity	Time Horizon	Impact	Cost Range	Possible Funding Sources	Status
7	Target existing and proposed and/or new 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 education programmes for new technology users in effective energy management	Quick Win	High	Medium	SEAI, ESB, Housing for All/ DHPLG	Planned but not started
8	Explore renewable energy heat sources including the installation of heat pumps at existing residential units as well as new developments and the potential of renewable gas and district heating. 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. Initiate and implement scheme to target projects identified.	Medium	High	High	SEAI, ESB, Housing for All, community Climate Action fund	Planned but not started
9	RCC will utilise the SEAI Pathfinder Programme to support Local Authority building retrofits. Renewable energy heat sources will be explored including the use of renewable gas, district heating opportunities and water conservation measures to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions at public buildings.	Medium	High	High	SEAI, LA resources	Planned but not started

APPENDIX C. ROSCOMMON TOWN DECARBONISATION ZONE REGISTER OF OPPORTUNITIES						
	Opportunity	Time Horizon	Impact	Cost Range	Possible Funding Sources	Status
10	Engage with the planning, roads and transportation, Economic Development & Tourism and Capital Implementation Teams of RCC in the development, design and funding of town centre projects including Active Travel measures. Priorities will include reducing 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	Quick Win	High	High	URDF, Active travel, ORIS	In progress
11	RCC will engage with rural transport service providers and communities to explore the most effective ways in which they meet the needs of communities and improve and promote public transport and active travel.	Quick Win	High	Medium	NTA, TFI/ Irish Rural Link, Private operators, Employers and institutions, RLP,	In progress
12	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.	Quick Win	High	Medium	ZEVI, Pobal, SEAI	In progress
13	The development of a waste management strategy for the DZ area to facilitate understanding of waste streams within the DZ, supporting rationalisation of amenity sites and effective management at source rather than at end of life.	Quick Win	High	Medium	REPAK, Roscommon Town Team, Chamber of Commerce, PPN, Housing, Environment	Planned but not started
14	Continue operation of Green schools initiative in primary and second level schools in Roscommon Town. The potential to undertake awareness and change initiatives will be explored in more detail under the DZ activities.	Quick Win	High	Low	Environment, An Taisce, central government, Department of education	Ongoing



