

# Clarecastle Community Briefing about the Draft Clare Climate Action Plan

November 13, 2023



# Agenda –in under 1 hour!

- Setting the scene– what we’re doing (and not doing)
- Overview of the draft Clare Climate Action Plan
- Q&A and topics/issues of interest
- Opportunities to participate in the consultation process
  - AND to engage in climate action in the community and the county)
- Planned follow-up and other next steps

# The Rodney & Otamatea Times

WAITEMATA & KAIPARA GAZETTE.

PRICE—10s per annum in advance

WARKWORTH, WEDNESDAY **AUGUST 14, 1912.**

3d. per Copy.

## Science Notes and News.

### COAL CONSUMPTION AFFECT- ING CLIMATE.

The furnaces of the world are now burning about 2,000,000,000 tons of coal a year. When this is burned, uniting with oxygen, it adds about 7,000,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere yearly. This tends to make the air a more effective blanket for the earth and to raise its temperature. The effect may be considerable in a few centuries.



CLIMATE CHANGE

# The era of climate change denial is mostly gone, Micheál Martin says

Severe heatwaves have gripped southern Europe, parts of the United States, Mexico and China this month.



19.1k



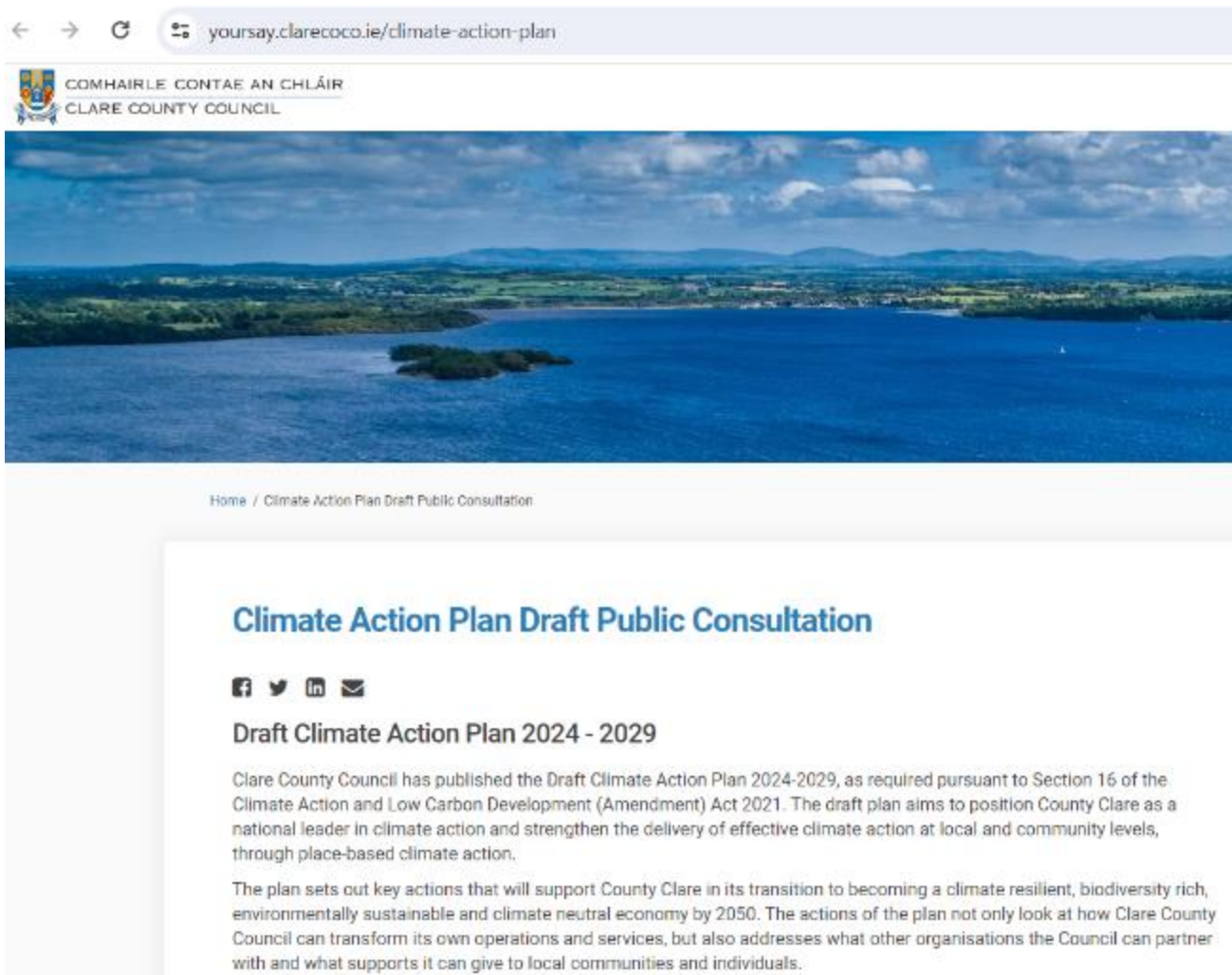
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# The plan and related info is all accessible online!

<https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/climate-action-plan>



## Submission Methods

A submission/observation can be submitted by one of the following methods:

**Online:** Online via the survey linked at the end of this webpage and linked [here](#).

**In writing to:** Draft Clare Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, Climate Action Dept, Buttermarket Building, Drumbiggle, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 RR72

**By email to:** [climate@clarecoco.ie](mailto:climate@clarecoco.ie). Subject headline should read "Submission to Draft Clare Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029"

**The deadline for receipt of submissions/observations is 4.00PM 23rd November 2023.** Please note that late submissions will not be considered.

## Public Information Drop-in Events

Council staff will be available during the hours 5:00pm to 7:00pm to provide guidance on the consultation process, you are welcome to come along to:

VENUE	DATE
West Clare Municipal District Office Kilrush, Town Hall, Kilrush	November 6th
Shannon Municipal District Office, Town Hall, Shannon	November 6th
West Clare Municipal District Office Ennistymon, Ennis Road, Ennistymon	November 7th
Killaloe Municipal District Office, Mountshannon Road, Scariff	November 7th
Civic Room, Buttermarket Building, Drumbiggle Road, Ennis	November 8th

[Submission Portal](#)

# Scope of the draft Clare Climate Action Plan

## Table of Contents

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1. PURPOSE OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN	4
1.2. OPPORTUNITIES OF CLIMATE ACTION	6
1.3. PROFILE OF COUNTY CLARE	8
1.4. LOCAL AUTHORITY SCOPE ON CLIMATE	10
1.5. CLIMATE ACTION BY CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL TO DATE	11
1.6. SUPPORTING A JUST TRANSITION FOR CLARE	13
<b>2. CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW</b>	<b>15</b>
2.1. SCIENTIFIC CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE	16
2.2. CLIMATE MITIGATION/CLIMATE ADAPTATION OVERVIEW	18
2.3. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT	19
<b>3. EVIDENCE BASELINE</b>	<b>24</b>
3.1. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	25
3.2. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT	27
3.3. PARTNERSHIPS	28
3.4. CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT	30
3.5. BASELINE EMISSIONS INVENTORY	33

<b>4. CLIMATE ACTION</b>	<b>37</b>
4.1. FRAMEWORK OF CLIMATE ACTIONS	38
4.2. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS	42
4.2.1. GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP	42
4.2.2. BUILT ENVIRONMENT	46
4.2.3. TRANSPORTATION	52
4.2.4. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	57
4.2.5. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	62
<b>5. DECARBONISATION ZONE</b>	<b>68</b>
5.1. IDENTIFICATION OF DECARBONISATION ZONE	69
5.2. BASELINE AND SCOPING	71
5.3. REGISTER OF OPPORTUNITES	74
5.4. DECARBONISATION ZONE CLIMATE ACTIONS	75
<b>6. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING</b>	<b>80</b>
6.1. IMPLEMENTATION	80
6.2. MONITORING AND REPORTING	81

## 1.1. Purpose of Climate Action Plan

**Climate change has become one of the most pressing global public policy challenges facing governments today.**

International organisations, national and local governments are increasingly compelled to take ambitious action to decrease greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change (mitigation) and enhance resilience to climate change impacts and risks (adaptation).

**'Local Authorities have a key role in the delivery of both climate mitigation and adaptation'.**

- **Climate Action Plan 2023**

The importance of place-based approaches and the role of Clare County Council and other Local Authorities across Ireland is highlighted in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, which stipulates that *"each local authority shall prepare and make a plan relating to a period of five years (in this section referred to as a 'local authority climate action plan') which shall specify the mitigation measures and the adaptation measures to be adopted by the local authority."* The Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs) will define a clear pathway towards reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the local level through the implementation of mitigation measures and reduce the risks posed to our communities by climate change through adaptation measures.

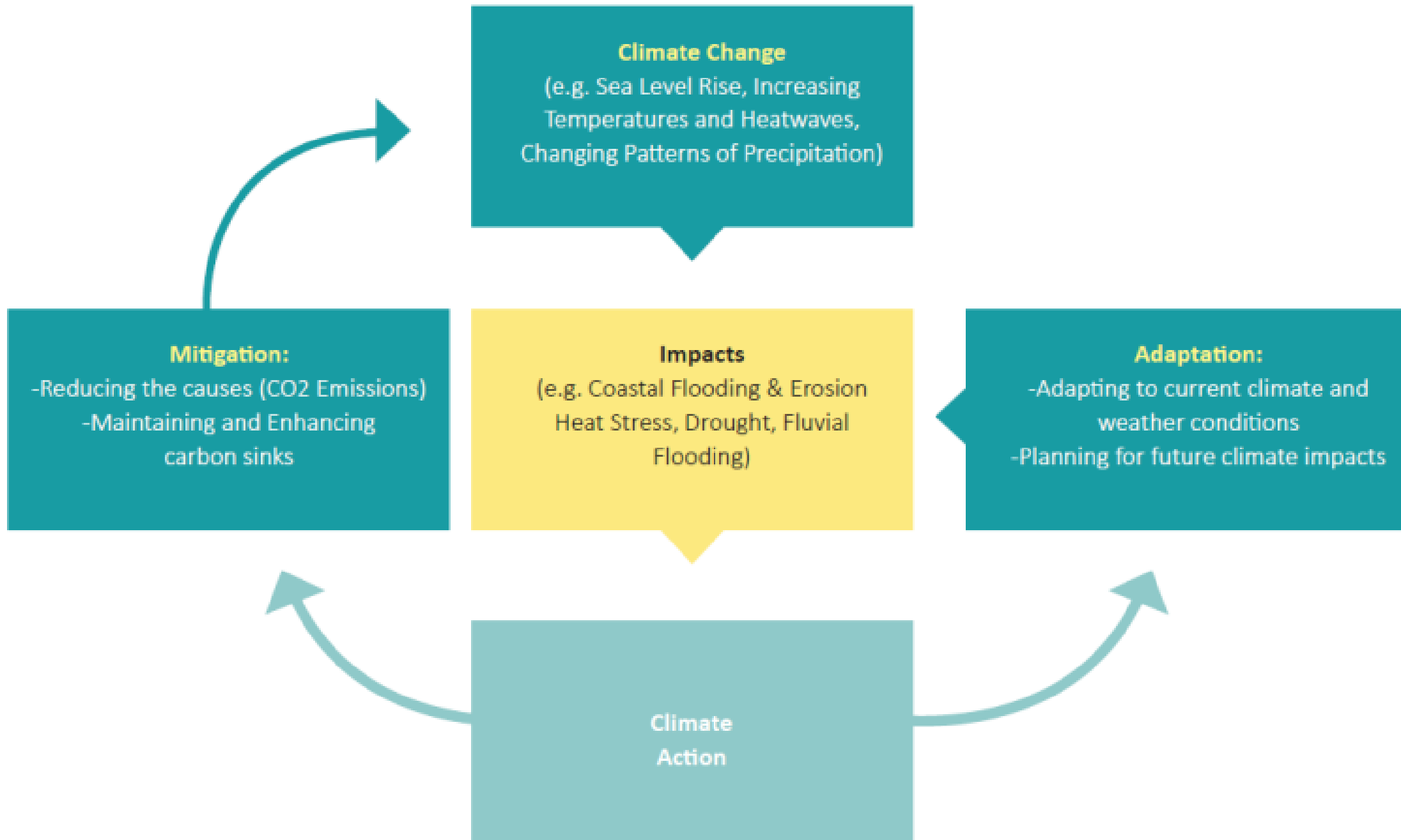
***"...clear target setting with deadlines and assigned responsibilities combined with regular review and adjustment is essential to achieve these goals. An agile approach with focus on action and delivery is crucial."***

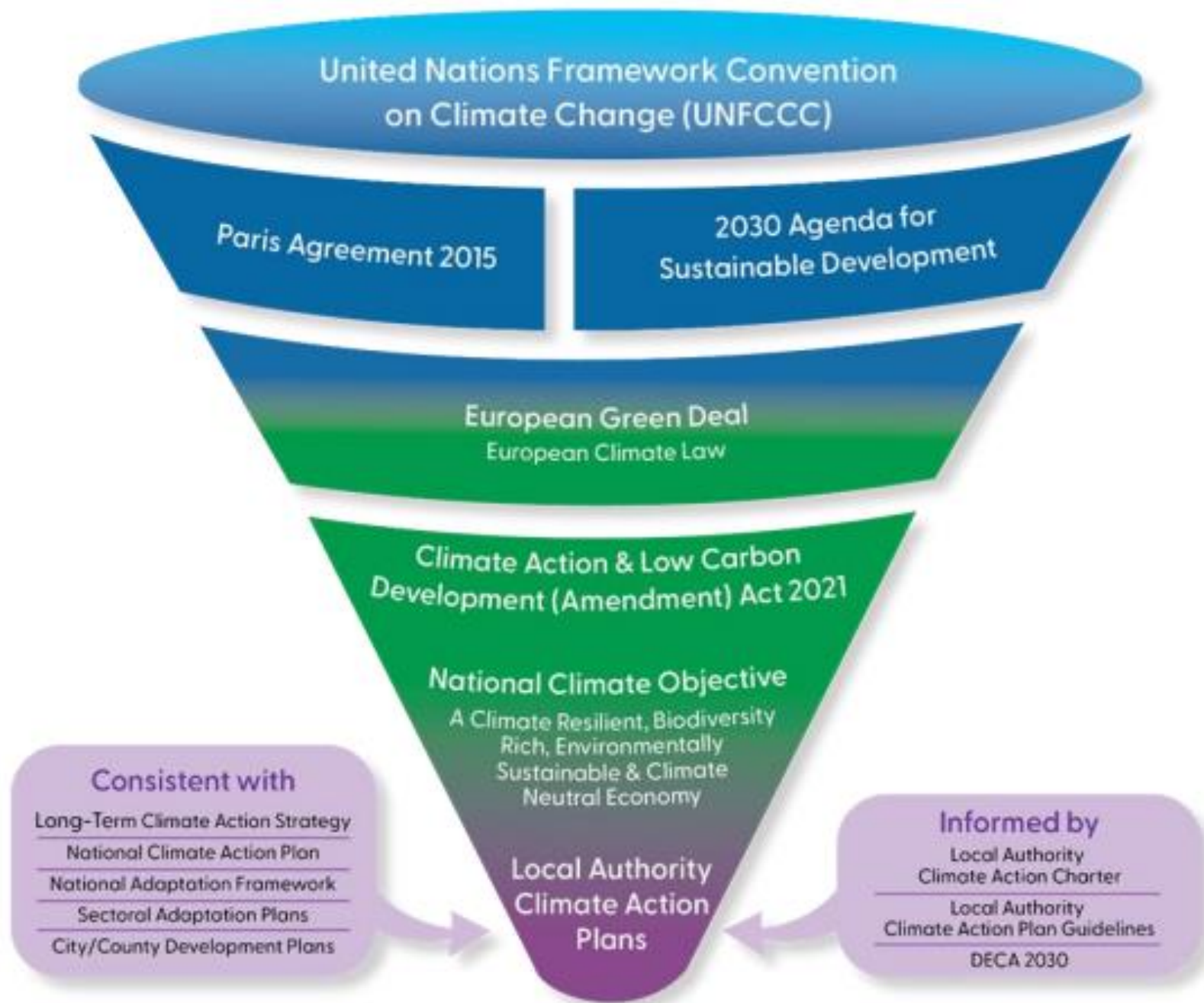
- **Pre-Draft Consultation Feedback**

The Climate Action Plan will strengthen the alignment between national climate policy and the delivery of effective local climate action.

Clare County Council is responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role of influencing and facilitating others to meet their own targets. This is necessary to ensure that the environmental, social, and economic benefits that come with climate action can be fully realised.

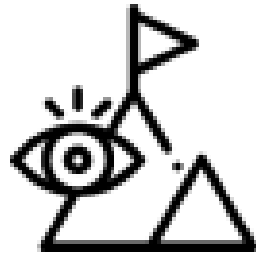
The strategy is not a standalone document, and its goals and objectives will be incorporated into future plans and policies of Clare County Council to ensure climate change is at the forefront of its service delivery.







## Vision Statement



Clare is a national leader in Climate Action supporting a sustainable low carbon economy and climate resilient, biodiverse communities and businesses.

## Mission Statement



Deliver and enable climate action for a just transition to a low carbon and climate resilient future within County Clare which results in sustainable growth, a high quality of life, inclusivity, and service accessibility.



Job Creation &  
Skills  
Development



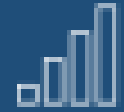
Public Health &  
Wellbeing



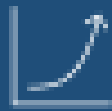
Enhanced  
Governance



Civic  
Engagement



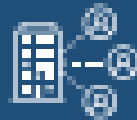
Service  
Delivery



Economic  
Growth



Reduced Costs



Staff  
Engagement



Air Quality and  
Reduced  
Noise Pollution



Improved  
Resilience and  
Infrastructure



Improved  
Mobility



Education and  
Awareness



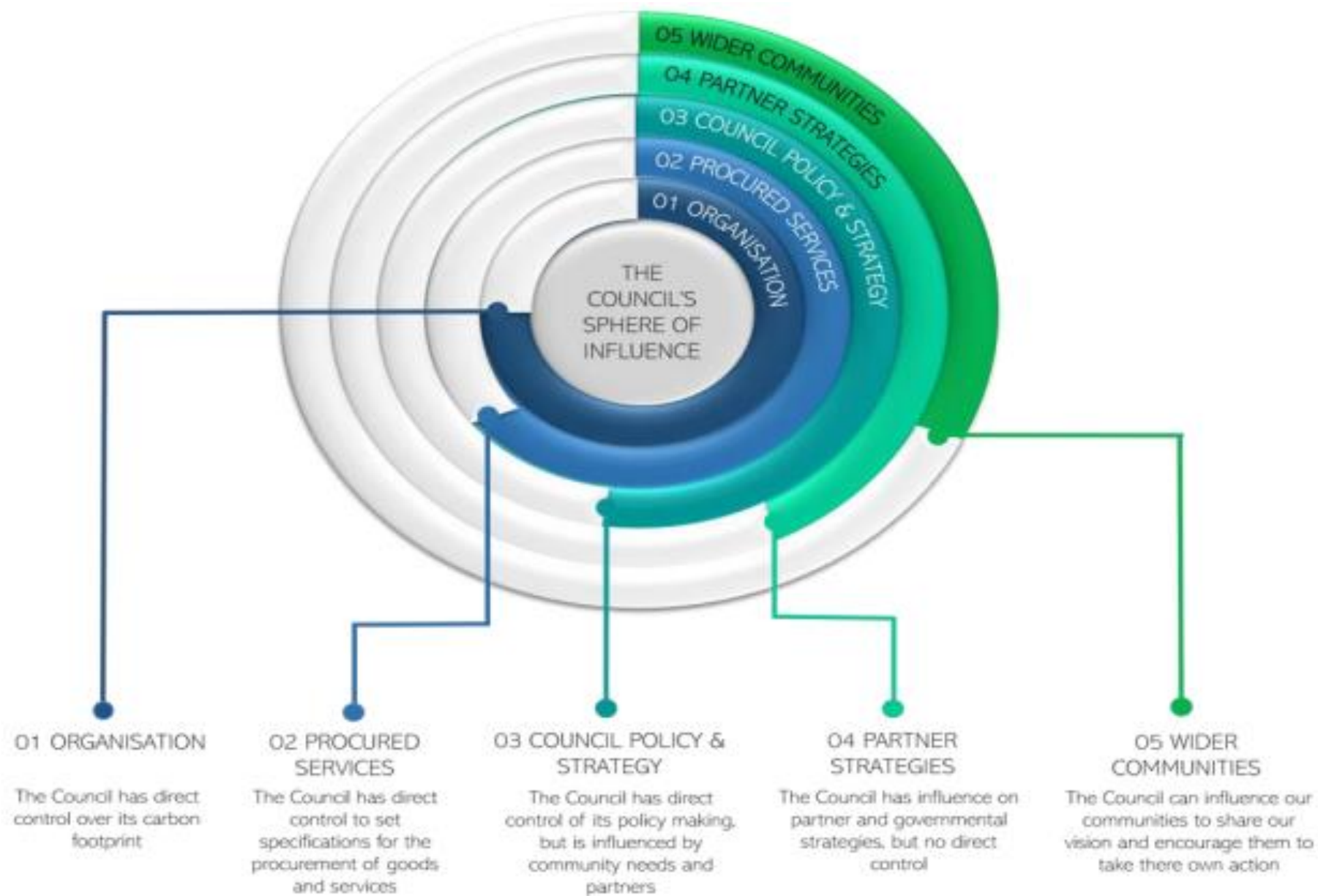
Social  
Inclusion



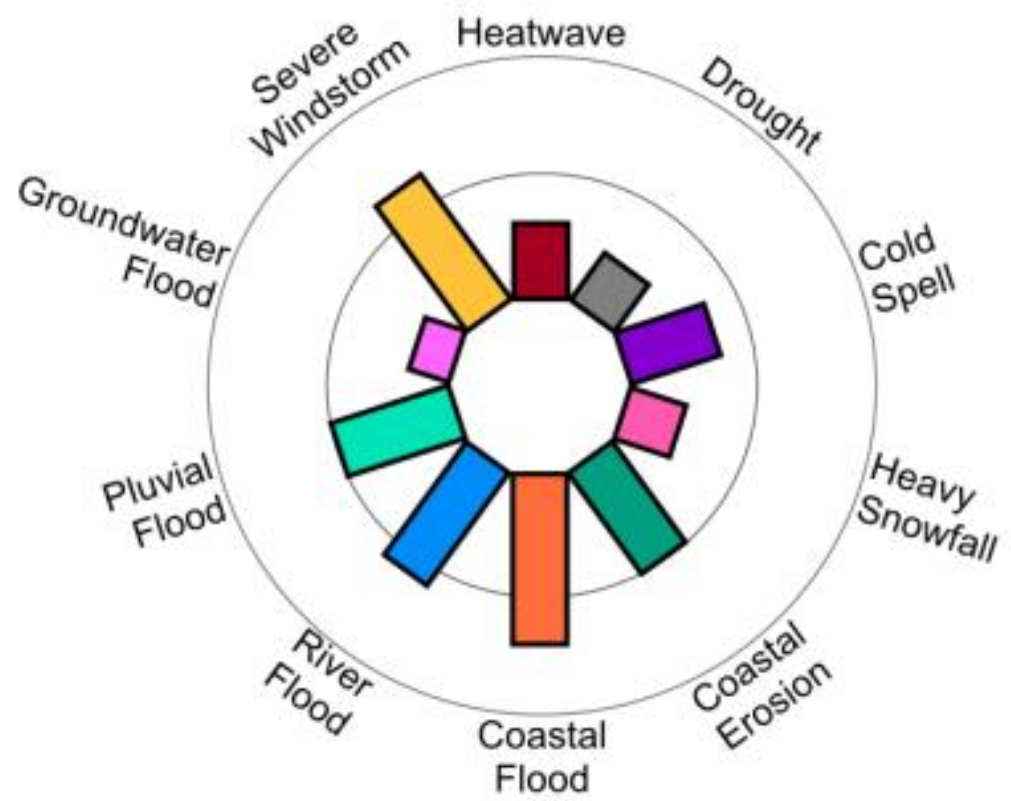
Youth  
Engagement



Increased  
Energy Security

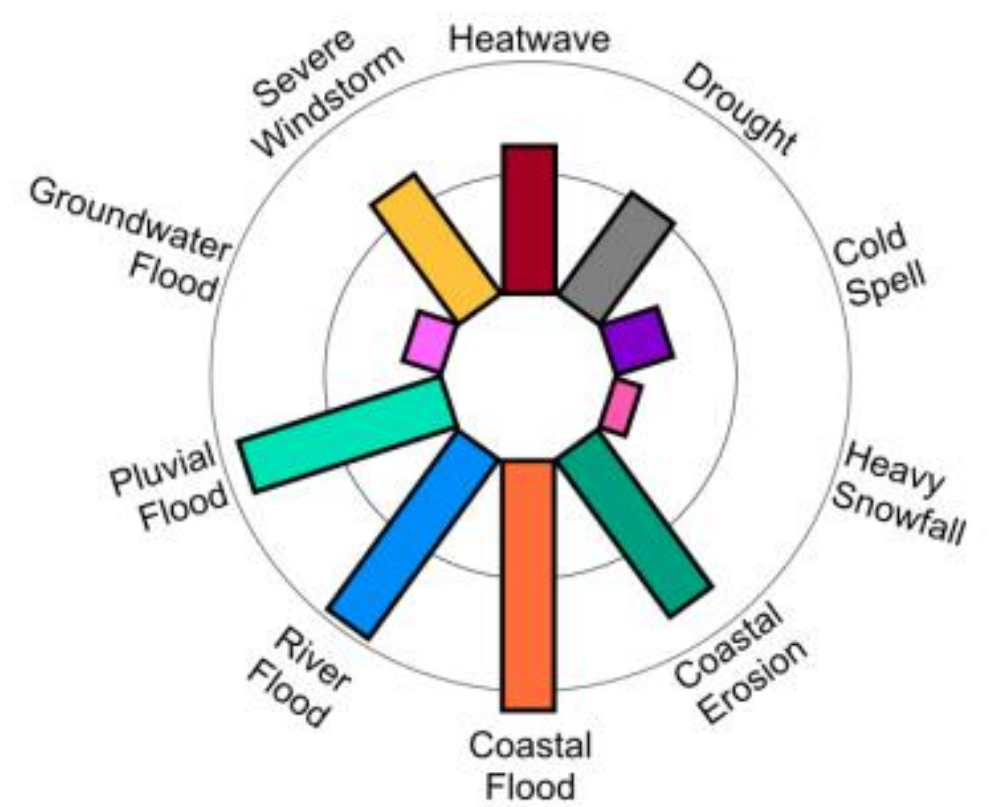


**Figure 1: Clare County Councils sphere of influence with regards to climate action**



**Current Risk**

The level of risk represented by the size of the bar



**2050 Risk**

The level of risk represented by the size of the bar

### 3.5.3. Emissions Profile Summary

Overall, the GHG emissions generated from all the analysed sectors in the county equated to 1,905,730 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq in the baseline year. The top three sectors in the county in terms of total GHG

emission were Agriculture, Transport, and Residential producing 45%, 20%, and 16% of the total GHG emissions in the county. This is broadly in line with National GHG emissions data.

### Emissions Sources

**62%**

Of GHG emissions from the agriculture sector are from enteric fermentation of cattle

**58%**

Of GHG emissions from the transport sector are from passenger cars

**67%**

Of GHG emissions from the residential sector are from hot water and space heating



**Clare County Council, along with all public sector entities, must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030, from the baseline year of 2018.**

**13%**

Reduction in total GHG emissions from Clare County Council Operations since 2018

**6,205 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

Total GHG emissions from Clare County Council Operations

**350,000 kwh**

Of renewable energy produced from biomass in Clare County Council HQ annually

**Electricity**



**12%**

**Thermal**



**24%**

**Transport**



**64%**



**5  
Strategic  
Goals**

**12  
Objectives**

**GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP**

Demonstrate leadership, ambition, accountability and transparency in the implementation of climate action

**BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Implement measures to promote decarbonisation and climate resiliency in the built environment

**TRANSPORT**

Support the provision and uptake of clean mobility solutions that meet future community needs

**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

Protect and promote the sustainable management of the natural environment of County Clare

**COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP**

Mobilise climate action in communities and support the transition to an inclusive low carbon economy

**Strategic  
Goals**





## Governance and Leadership Actions

### Objective GL1

Establish processes that facilitate the integration of climate into decision making and enable climate action transparency and accountability

No	Action	KPI	Lead	Timeframe	Area
G1.1	<b>Establish a Climate Action Steering Committee within Clare County Council</b>	Number of Meetings	Physical Directorate	Short-term	Both
G1.2	<b>Develop annual Climate Action Implementation Plans to support delivery of Climate Action Plan</b>	Plan developed	Physical Directorate	Short-term	Both
G1.3	<b>Develop Climate Communications Plan to report climate action progress and promote climate action</b>	Communications Plan Developed / Actions Implemented	Corporate, Physical Directorate	Short-term	Both
G1.4	<b>Monitor national and regional climate-related policy and legislation developments to support meeting national climate objectives</b>	Number of policy and legislative reviews conducted	Physical Directorate	Medium-term	Both
G1.5	<b>Join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy</b>	Successful integration into Global Covenant of Mayors	Physical Directorate	Short-term	Both
G1.6	<b>Develop strategy/resources to ensure all council-owned buildings are included under a broadened Facilities Management System to facilitate upgrading, retrofitting, and increased sustainability of all such buildings</b>	Strategy developed / System in place	Physical Directorate	Long-term	Both

1 of the 5 strategic goals

1 of the 12 objectives

Specific actions



## Objective T2

Reduce emissions across Clare County Council operational, business, and commuting transportation through electric vehicles, sustainable fuels, and behaviour change

No	Action	KPI	Lead	Timeframe	Area
T2.1	<b>Develop a Vehicle Usage Policy for Clare County Council aligned with sustainability best practice and business requirements</b>	Vehicle Usage Policy Developed	Physical Directorate	Short-term	Mitigation
T2.2	<b>Increase procurement of electric light good vehicles in Clare County Council vehicle fleet while ensuring sustainability criteria is appropriately considered during procurement processes and appropriate end-of-life vehicle management practices are in place</b>	Number of Electric LGV's Procured	Physical Directorate	Ongoing	Mitigation
T2.3	<b>Conduct feasibility study and integration of renewable alternative fuel options for Clare County Council vehicle fleet ensuring appropriate regard is had to the sustainability of sourced alternative fuels</b>	Completion of Assessments	Physical Directorate	Short-term	Both
T2.4	<b>Reduce transportation emissions through driver training, enhanced practices, reduced idling, and optimised fleet</b>	Reduction in litres/100km	Physical Directorate	Short-term	Mitigation
T2.5	<b>Enable staff to utilise practical lower-carbon options for undertaking business travel through provision of electric bikes and vehicles, carpooling, etc</b>	Suite of options available	Physical Directorate	Short-term	Mitigation

## Objective C2

Support communities, enterprises, and individuals to access the capacity, skills, and investment necessary to accelerate climate action

No	Action	KPI	Lead	Timeframe	Area
C2.1	<b>Through the implementation of the Community Climate Action Fund, engage communities in localised Climate Action Projects</b> <small>Note 21</small>	Number of funding applications submitted/awarded	Physical Directorate	Ongoing/Short-term	Both
C2.2	<b>Support small enterprises with investment in energy efficient technologies and equipment through the Energy Efficiency Grant</b>	Number of Businesses Supported	Economic Directorate	Ongoing/Short-term	Both
C2.3	<b>Support businesses with consultancy services towards the development of sustainability management plans</b>	Number of Businesses Supported	Economic Directorate	Ongoing/Short-term	Both
C2.4	<b>Support an increase in the number of farmers partaking in the Teagasc Signpost Programme</b>	Number of Farmers Participating	Physical Directorate	Medium-term	Mitigation
C2.5	<b>Support an increase the number of Sustainable Energy Communities established in Clare where specific supported energy efficiency and renewable energy projects will not lead to unintended negative environmental effects in a local community</b>	Number of SECs established	Physical Directorate	Ongoing/Long-term	Mitigation



## Natural Environment Actions

### Objective N1

Protect, conserve, and enhance County Clare's biodiversity and heritage through the implementation of effective climate-related actions

No	Action	KPI	Lead	Timeframe	Area
N1.1	<b>Develop and implement an Updated Clare Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and enhance local biodiversity ensuring climate change is factored into the Plan's development</b>	Local Biodiversity Action Plan adopted every 6 years and actions implemented	Economic Directorate	Short-term	Both
N1.2	<b>Identify potential biodiversity opportunities for tree planting and woodland creation within Clare County Council landbanks</b>	Sites identified and sites planted	Physical Directorate	Medium-term	Both
N1.3	<b>Support and engage with locally and nationally led European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and Priority Action Areas projects in County Clare with biodiversity, climate, and community benefits</b>	Number of EIP projects supported	Council-wide	2029	Both
N1.4	<b>Integrate biodiversity principles into the design and development of social housing</b>	Development of Policy	Social Directorate	Medium-term	Both
N1.5	<b>Develop interventions to address Invasive Alien Species through education and awareness</b>	Education and/or awareness programmes designed and in place as appropriate	Economic, Rural and Physical Directorates	Short-term	Both
N1.6	<b>Support citizen science projects to target climate sensitive species</b>	Number of projects supported	Economic Directorate, Physical Directorate	Medium-term	Adaptation

## Objective N3

Support communities to reduce waste and lead by example in Clare County Council's waste management

No	Action	KPI	Lead	Timeframe	Area
N3.1	<b>Implement measures to reduce waste generated from Clare County Council's operations, as well as increase the proportion of waste that is recycled or repurposed</b>	Number of waste management measures	Economic Directorate, Physical Directorate	Ongoing/Long-term	Mitigation
N3.2	<b>Investigate the development of suitably located composting centres to promote circularity of green waste</b> <small>Note 27</small>	Number of locations identified	Physical Directorate	Long-term	Mitigation
N3.3	<b>Support festivals and casual traders to integrate sustainability into their practices</b>	Number of festivals/traders who integrate sustainability	Physical, Economic and Rural Directorates, Municipal Districts	Short-term	Mitigation
N3.4	<b>Support the Green Schools initiative and enable an increase in the number of schools actively participating</b>	Number of supporting interventions / Number of Schools	Physical Directorate	Ongoing/Long-term	Both
N3.5	<b>Continue to support circular economy and waste-management community-based schemes</b>	Completed on an annual basis	Physical Directorate, Municipal Districts	Ongoing/Long-term	Mitigation
N3.6	<b>Support the development of smart water stations across the county to reduce plastic bottle waste</b>	Number of smart water stations	Physical Directorate, Municipal Districts	Medium-term	Mitigation

# Case Studies: Climate Action Innovation in Clare

CASE STUDY

## Innovative Enterprise Sustainability

Torpey is a leading brand of premium hurleys for the sport of hurling based in East Clare. In 2020, Torpey launched their ground-breaking sustainable BAMBÚ hurley to the marketplace.



BAMBÚ has won numerous awards including the 'Best Consumer Product' from the Institute of Designers of Ireland in 2020, and National Enterprise Award in 2022 and has been used by many elite players across the sport. Support from the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) has been fundamental to its success in the marketplace with support including the Business Expansion Grant, Green For Micro and Lean Start schemes.

As part of their latest engagement with Clare LEO, Torpey have independently verified that the carbon footprint of Bambú is lower than an Ash hurley made from imported material. This is a significant achievement for the company as almost 90% of the ash material used for hurleys is imported.

CASE STUDY

## Regenerative and Sustainable Farming



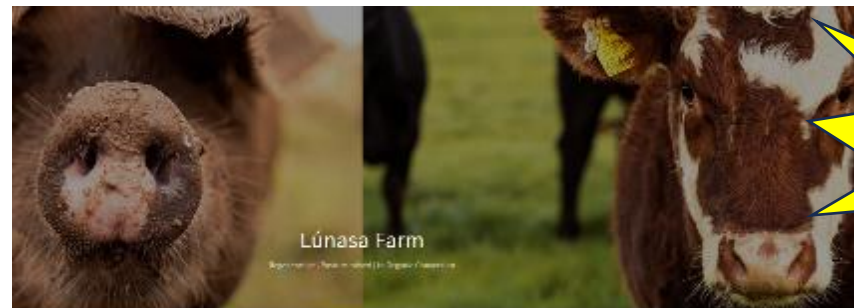
Kilkee and the Loop Head Peninsula, Clare's designated Decarbonisation Zone, has been a source of multiple innovative climate action initiatives.

In January 2023 it was named winner of the IPB Pride of Place Climate Action Special Award for a regenerative farming experiment named Hemp4Soil.

This project explored the potential to improve soil quality and biodiversity while also creating alternative sustainable income streams for farms on the Loop Head Peninsula.

The project involved ten local farmers who, in conjunction with the Department for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine, and local scientific and biodiversity experts, explored how growing hemp on the land could not only improve the overall quality of the soil and benefit local biodiversity, but could also provide sustainable income streams to the farmers in the future.

<https://lunasafarm.ie/>



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Find more

Clarecastle Business

<https://www.hurstbotanicals.ie/>



Clarecastle Business

## 5.1.1. Definition


A Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) is defined as a spatial area, identified by each local authority in Ireland, in which a range of climate mitigation measures are identified to contribute towards meeting the national climate action targets.

Identification	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and define the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) area.</li> <li>Identify a clear overarching vision and objectives.</li> </ul>
Baseline and Scoping	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the Baseline Emissions Inventory</li> <li>Explore policy context and alignment.</li> <li>Identify and map stakeholders.</li> </ul>
Register of Opportunities	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile a portfolio of actions, projects, technologies, and interventions.</li> </ul>
Action	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set out actions to be delivered over the lifetime of the plan.</li> </ul>
Implement	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devise a strategy for implementation.</li> </ul>

Figure 5: Stages in developing the DZ



### Clare Local Authority Climate Action Plan

 <b>Communities and Partnerships Actions</b>					
No	Action	KPI	Lead	Timeframe	Area
DZ-C1	<b>Support the development of local food production and farm enterprises in the DZ (e.g., Loop Head Farm to Fork)</b> <small>Note 36</small>	Number of Initiatives Supported	Loop Head Together	Medium-term	Both
DZ-C2	<b>Promote remote working and uptake of Clare Digi Hubs in the DZ.</b>	Level of Uptake of Digi Hub Locations	Clare County Council	Short-term	Mitigation
DZ-C3	<b>Support micro and small enterprises (1-50) in the DZ access investment and support to advance energy efficiency and sustainability through the Green for Business program.</b>	Number of Businesses Supported	Clare County Council	Ongoing/Short-term	Both
DZ-C4	<b>Support businesses to prevent, reduce and separate waste generated through Kilkee Green Business Hub.</b>	Number of Businesses Participating	Clare County Council	Ongoing/Short-term	Mitigation
DZ-C5	<b>Support through promotion an increase in the number of farmers in the DZ partaking in the Teagasc Signpost Programme.</b>	Number of Farmers Participating	Clare County Council / Teagasc	Medium-term	Mitigation
DZ-C6	<b>Partner with Green Schools to promote climate actions within schools in the DZ.</b>	Number of engagements with schools in DZ	Clare County Council / An Taisce	Short-term	Both

## 6. Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

### 6.1. Implementation

This Climate Action Plan will be implemented by Clare County Council. Whilst the plan requires a whole-of-Council approach, the ownership of the plan is held within the Physical Directorate. A Climate Action Team was established in Clare County Council in 2023. This team includes a Climate Action Co-Ordinator, Climate Action Officer, Community Climate Action Officer, and Graduate Climate Action Officer. The role of this team is to mainstream climate action into the activities of Clare County Council, monitor the implementation of the actions of the Climate Action Plan and to co-ordinate the reporting and evaluation of the Plan, following its approval by the Elected Members. The core Climate Action Team is supported by colleagues and departments across the organisation that have ownership of particular actions in the Plan. The core Climate Action Team will also be the point of contact for the public to learn about climate action in the County.

The Clare Climate Action Plan sets out a series of actions that will be delivered over the short-, medium-, and long-term to achieve the strategic goals and objectives set out in the plan. Given that the delivery of these actions will be over a number of years into the future it is important to set out a process for the monitoring, implementation and reporting of progress (see the figure below for illustration of the process and accompanying process numbers explained below).

### 6.2. Monitoring and Reporting

Each action within the Climate Action Plan has at least one associated key performance indicator (KPI), the KPIs are a central component in progress monitoring and will be tracked throughout the Plan's lifetime as actions are progressed and implemented (2a). 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.

An internal Climate Action Reporting System (2b) will be developed which will enable departments and sections to report progress made against the actions they are leading on. The reporting system will be managed by the Climate Action Team and all information reported will be collated by the team for the purposes of evaluation and reporting.

A Climate Action Communications Plan (3) will set out in further detail how climate action will be reported and promoted in a consistent and considered manner. Internally (3a), progress will be reported to and reviewed by the Climate Action Steering Committee on a quarterly basis with recommendations originating from the committee to support further progress. On an annual basis progress will be communicated to the elected officials of the Council. Additionally, where relevant, progress on key actions will be reported through the various methods available to the council for example through the Monthly Management Report, Clare County Council website and social media to increase transparency and foster collaboration.

Externally, (3b) performance by Clare County Council 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 reported through the established Sustainable Authority of Ireland Monitoring and Reporting (SEAI M&R) System. It is anticipated that the CAROs along with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) will continue to collect climate-related data through the LGMA Climate Survey on an annual basis and Clare County Council will continue to report against these indicators. It is envisaged that a national mechanism for the reporting of Local Authority Climate Action Plan progress will be established and as such Clare County Council commits to reporting progress in line with the reporting requirements.

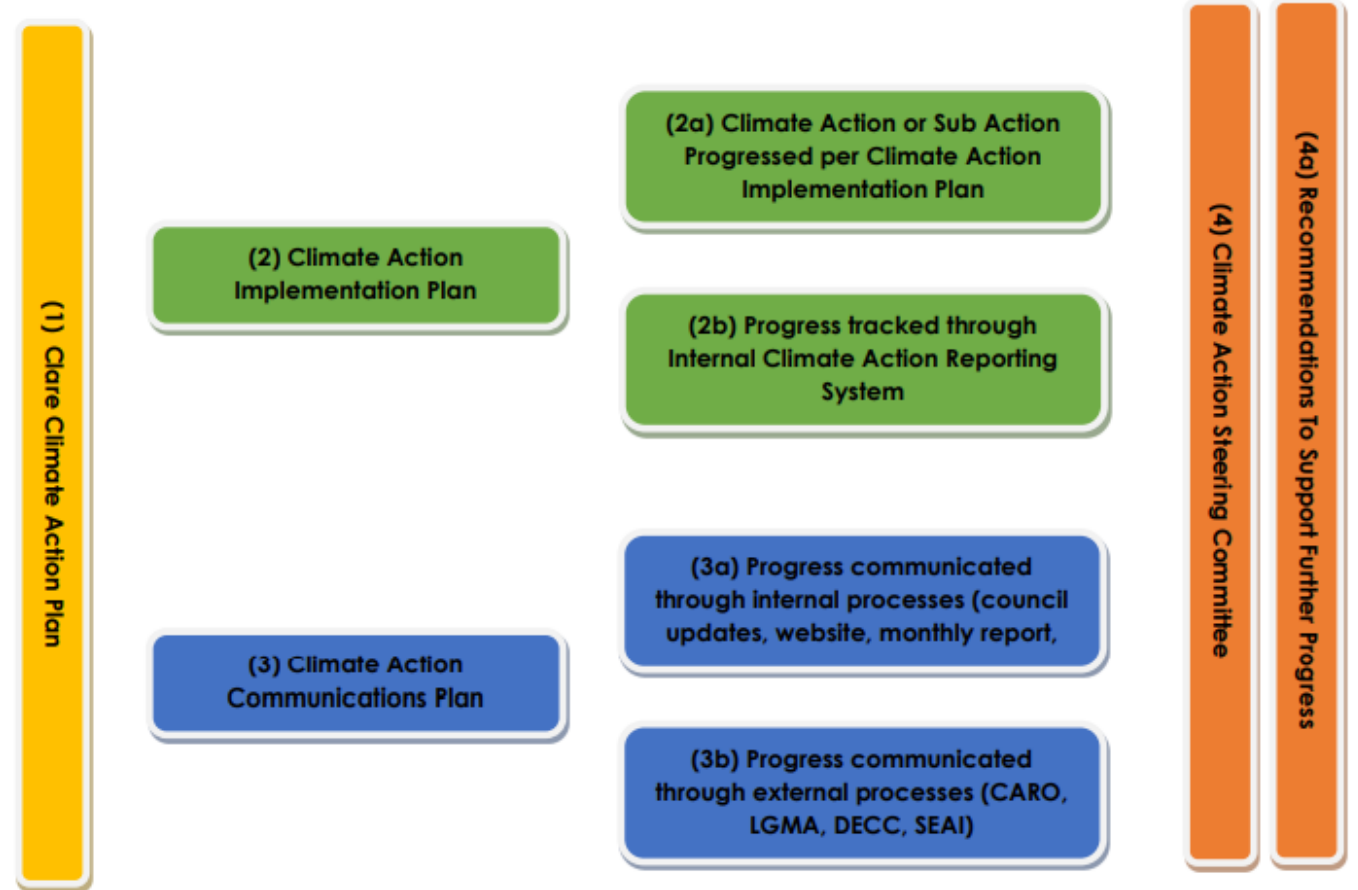


Figure 10 Process for the monitoring, implementation and reporting of progress

# Some of the 'bright spots' in Clarecastle

- Private, Public, and Civil Sector participation and collaboration
- Group and Individual leadership and activity
- Business leadership (e.g. ***Deasy's Centra, Hurst Botanicals, Lúnasa Farm***)
- ***Clarecastle National School*** and Green Schools
- ***GAA, An Post, Men's Shed*** recognised as “Champions” (Leaders & Advocates)
- ***Tidy Towns***— sustainability and climate change elements
- ***Clarecastle Regatta*** (one of the founding ***Green Festivals*** groups)
- ***Circular Clarecastle***— Dept. ECC engagement & nexus for community sustainability programming



# Upcoming opportunities actively in gear

- ***Community Energy Assessment*** and Masterplan
- Priorities and opportunities identified through the Clare ***Community Climate Action Grant***
- Group initiatives and community consultation
  - e.g. Dromoland Castle Hotel → industrial size food waste management and composting solution for CNS DEIS food waste
  - NOTE: funding via Community Climate Action Grant (Clare Co Co)
- Visit <https://clarecastle.ie> for links and connections to all Clarecastle community groups & businesses PLUS resources/materials.

Thank You!

Unless someone  
like you cares a  
whole awful lot  
nothing is going  
to get better.  
it's not.

— dr. seuss

