



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF  
CE REPORT ON  
SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

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SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL  
**DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE  
ACTION PLAN 2019-2024**

**MAY 2019**

## **Introduction**

This is an executive summary of the Chief Executive's proposed additions and amendments to be made to South Dublin County Council draft Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024, as laid out in CE Report on Submissions received on the South Dublin County Council draft Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024.

South Dublin County Council undertook a public consultation on the draft Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 (dCCAP) during the period Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 inclusive. A total of 73 valid submissions were received in response to the Consultation which translated into over 199 discrete comments or item submissions on the different Milestones of the Plan, the majority targeting the five Action Areas. Many submissions were made to each of the Dublin Local Authorities but some to individual LAs only. While each plan is unique to its functional area a unified approach was taken to responding to submissions that were appropriate and regionalised.

The level and detail of submissions received reflect widespread public concern on the urgent need to respond to climate change. South Dublin County Council is determined to do all within its power to reach its targets as laid out in the dCCAP and improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This involves working on our own buildings and operations, whilst also influencing the wider community, other public bodies and businesses. It further requires making the South Dublin County Council functional area more resilient and adaptive to the impacts of climate change.

There were 114 actions in the draft Climate Change Action Plan; a further 17 have been added as a result of submissions and another 8 have been amended to clarify the actions.

The Chief Executive Report, together with the dCCAP, will be circulated to the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC members and will be included on the Agenda of the Council meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> May. If the draft is approved, a final Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 will be published and submitted to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment. In accordance with the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) South Dublin County Council is required to make a local adaptation strategy by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

As a result of the consideration of the submissions made, all additions and amendments to the dCCAP have been assessed and approved for SEA and AA determination. The additions and amendments provide the Plan with greater context and links with collaborations and potential funding streams, they are summarised below:

### **New and Amended Action and Text in the 5 Action Areas:**

#### **Action 1, Energy & Buildings**

8 new actions are proposed regarding the presentation of results on our targets, seeking and trialling innovative renewable energy projects, consideration of biodiversity, historic monuments and heritage.

Text regarding Heritage and Historical Buildings has been added to help maintain the archaeological and architectural resources for future generations.

## **Action 2, Transport**

5 new actions were identified and 2 were amended to clarify the actions. The changes included the addition of consideration of facilities for non-fossil fuelled powered vehicles and the enhancement of green infrastructure measures. While the new action considers the schools Cycle Right program, seeking and expanding partnerships to encourage, and a portal for, sustainable travel,

## **Action 3, Flood Resilience**

4 actions were amended to clarify the actions. The changes propose the inclusion of ecosystem services and natural capital costs to major climate events, the promotion of nature and natural flood measures where practical.

Clarifications were made to the main text of this section to state, in summary, that the Floods Directive calls for flood risk assessments to be carried out, and that flood maps have been prepared for future flood climate scenarios by the OPW.

## **Action 4, Nature Based Solutions**

Only 1 action required an amendment for clarification, the change was to include native species into local authority plans as a key nature-based measure where appropriate.

## **Action 5, Resource Management**

2 new actions were identified and 1 was amended for clarification. The change was to clarify the use of the Eco Merit scheme to promote waste reduction to businesses. The new actions consider the promotion of the circular economy to householders, and to collaborate with new stakeholders

## **Updates to the Main Text**

A general comment was included regarding the presentation of results on our targets in relation to GHG emissions and energy efficiency, and to clarify that in accordance with the reporting structure of EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, South Dublin County Council will report on total emissions every two years as required.

Text regarding Citizen and Community Engagement has been added, to recognise recent citizen engagement including the National Dialogue on Climate Action and their objectives, and to allow for SDCC to foster and build momentum on wider citizen engagement including the elderly and younger citizens, which will progressively inform and encourage all citizens, communities and other stakeholders to have increased access to information and advice.

Text regarding Climate Change the science behind CCAP will be inserted, to clarify that the Plan and future iterations will be consistent with and have regard to the Oireachtas 'Climate Change: A Cross Party Consensus on Climate Action' Report (March 2019) and the Whole of Government Climate Action Plan.

A new action regarding supporting the Local Authority Waters Program in delivery of water quality projects and initiatives has been added.

Text regarding the engagement with the business community was added and to explore partnerships across sectors and access to funding sources and an new action was added in this area.

Text listing the sectors whom will be producing Adaptation Plans for the Government by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as mandated by the National Adaptation Framework has been added, and that future iterations of the Councils Plan will be consistent with approved sectoral Adaptation Plans.

Minor text changes to state that SDCC's together with stakeholders such as other LA's, CARO and Codema, will seek financial supports for climate research and practical low carbon solutions.

Further minor text changes were recommended to state that SDCC's county wide baseline emissions inventory was completed in 2018 and will be used as a benchmark. And a Dublin Region Energy Master Plan will be produced by Codema.