



South Dublin County Council

Climate Change Action Plan 2019 -
2024

Screening for Appropriate
Assessment on the Chief
Executives Recommendations

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Final	1	Pat Doherty MSc, MCIEEM

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Table of Contents

1.1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.2	DETAILS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS	2
1.3	CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT	3
1.4	PURPOSE OF THIS APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT	4
2.0	<u>SCREENING CONCLUSION & DETERMINATION</u>	<u>10</u>

1.1 INTRODUCTION

For the first time, Dublin's four local authorities have joined together to develop Climate Change Action Plans as a collaborative response to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have, on the Dublin Region and its citizens. While each plan is unique to its functional area, they are unified in their approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and their commitment to lead by example in tackling this global issue.

These CCAPs follow on from the publication of A Strategy for Climate Change Action Plans for the Dublin Local Authorities (DLAs), which was published in January 2017. The strategy used a structured approach that focused on seven key areas (Citizen Engagement, Planning, Energy, Transport, Water, Waste, and Ecosystems & Biodiversity), and set out how the DLAs would develop the four climate change action plans. The action plans will be unique to each local authority area but synchronised in their methodology.

The actions in the CCAP are presented around a number of themes as follows:

- Energy and Buildings
- Transport
- Flood Resilience
- Nature Based Solutions
- Resource Management.

Collectively, these collectively address the four targets of this plan, which are:

- A 33% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2020
- A 40% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change -related events
- To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change.

As such, the CCAP encompasses the functional and administrative area of South Dublin County.

Public consultation on the Draft Climate Change Action Plan took place over a six-week period from Monday 11th February to Monday 25th March 2019.

In addition, and in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 to 2011, as amended, and Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and an Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Statement, were also on public display.

1.2 DETAILS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

The objectives of the Draft Climate Change Action Plan public consultation process were as follows:

- Increase awareness of the Draft Climate Change Action Plan for the general public, various stakeholders, prescribed bodies, and Council staff;
- Provide opportunities for more creative and dynamic engagement with a variety of interested parties, including younger citizens, older citizens and locally based community and resident's groups;
- Increase the number, variety and quality of submissions received, appropriate to the Draft Climate Change Action Plan;
- Encourage longer term engagement strategies beyond the Draft Climate Change Action Plan stage and scope follow up activities; and
- To align with the Council's internal and external communication objectives.

The Council has used a variety of online and supporting 'face to face' methods, to consult and engage with the citizens of South Dublin County Council area and a range of other stakeholders and interested parties.

- Codema developed a generic information leaflet (2,000 copies printed) and event

- programmes (500 copies printed each) for the #Councils4ClimateAction events. This
- material helped to provide information on the Plans and to promote what was taking place
- at each of the events. These leaflets were widely available online to help spread the word
- and cut down on the need for printed copies.
- The *#Councils4ClimateAction* social media campaign was particularly effective throughout the public consultation.
- process and for promoting the Councils' events.
- Codema acted as the central liaison point between all four Councils' Communications
- Teams and together a central message was formed around the plans and the 'make a
- submission' call to action.
- Press releases were issued by the four DLAs and Codema in the run up to the public consultation period opening and the public events, resulting in widespread national and local media coverage such as the Irish Times, RTE Television Six-One and Nine O'Clock News Bulletins, Virgin Media One News Bulletins, RTE Radio 1 and Newstalk 106-108fm.

A total of 234 valid submissions were received.

1.3 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

A Chief Executive's (CE) Report has been prepared which summarises, details the outcome of the public consultation programme on the Draft Climate Change Action Plan, and contains the following:

All submissions were read, analysed and summarised. A list of the persons, organisations and bodies that made submissions is provided in Appendix A of the CE Report. The categorisations and summary of issues raised, together with the Chief Executive's response and recommendations is contained in Section 0.5 onwards. **NB:** The headings relating to the categorisation and summary of issues raised, together with the Chief Executive's response

and recommendations, follows that of the headings of the Draft Climate Change Action Plan document i.e. Section 0.5.1 Executive Summary, Section 0.5.2 Introduction, and so forth.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THIS APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

The purpose of this AA Screening report and accompanying Determination is to evaluate the requirement for AA to be undertaken on the Recommendations by the Chief Executive.

This Determination should be read in conjunction with the Chief Executive report and all other associated documents including the:

- CE report;
- SEA Environmental Report for the draft South Dublin County CCAP;
- Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement for the draft South Dublin County CCAP.
- SEA Screening Report for the Chief Executive's Recommendations.

Table 1.1 below lists all changes to the CCAP proposed in the Chief Executives Report. Each of these changes are screened for their potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. A concluding determination then provided following the assessment outlined in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Screening of Actions Recommended by the Chief Executive Report

Chief Executive Recommendation	Appropriate Assessment Screening
<p>The City Council Energy Review (mid 2019) and going forward, will include a glide path illustrating the energy efficiency and GHG emission targets for the City Council up to and including 2030.</p> <p>Appendix II: Total Emissions in South Dublin County of the CCAP, will also be updated every two years in accordance with EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy protocol.</p>	<p>These two actions as recommend will provide information on the energy efficiency and targets through diagrams (glide path) as well as biannual updates of total emissions. These in and of themselves do not give rise to landuse effects and will not have the potential alone, or in combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Architects Department of South Dublin County Council is committed to participating with the RIAI in particular the Sustainability Task Force in seeking new and innovative approaches to Climate action in the built environment • Identify site for trialling renewable energy projects, including solar PV and Geothermal. • 	<p>Actions relating to long term building renovation and new and innovative climate action in the built environment within South Dublin County will not result in land use effects with the potential to negatively affect European Sites. The renovation of existing buildings will not have the potential alone, or in combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.</p> <p>The identification of site for trialling renewable energy projects such as solar PV and geothermal will not in itself alone, or in combination with other plans or projects have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. It is noted that any renewable energy project progressed within any such site identified on foot of this amendment will be subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment and where required a Natura Impact Statement. In addition existing measures that aim to protect European Sites as outlined in the NIS for the CCAP and the NIR for</p>

Chief Executive Recommendation	Appropriate Assessment Screening
	<p>the CDP will be required to inform the site identification process.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the development of an understanding of the deep geothermal resources in Dublin may require land based research activities that involve ground penetration. Any ground penetration or drilling works required to inform the understanding of the deep geothermal resources in Dublin will be subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment and where required a Natura Impact Statement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will investigate the Lifecycle Assessment of Traditional and New Construction Methods for Residential Projects in Dublin. • In all building projects, new build or retrofit, Swift Bricks or other nesting sites for swifts will be provided where practicable. The presence of swift breeding sites will be identified to ensure that known breeding sites are not lost as a result of construction work. • Develop maintenance and condition survey programmes for Council owned historic and ancient monuments that are informed by climate change impacts. • Conduct research and seek to develop Council based case studies on appropriate and sensitive retro-fitting/energy upgrading of traditional buildings to inform works both to Council owned 	<p>These actions focus on cultural heritage, its protection and a sensitive approach to any sustainable energy upgrades to buildings of cultural heritage value. Its inclusions in the CCAP will not have the potential to result in land use effects alone, or in combination with other plans or projects that could result in likely significant effects to European Sites.</p> <p>The action relating to swift boxes is included on foot of a submission by Birdwatch Ireland. It will have positive implications for biodiversity and will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.</p>

Chief Executive Recommendation	Appropriate Assessment Screening
properties and to guide private owners.	
.	This action will not result in land use effects and will not have the potential alone, or in combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.
Expand availability of EV charging points and other facilities for non fossil fuelled powered vehicles in the County	The inclusion of this action will not in itself result in significant land use effects and will not have the potential alone, or in combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.
Strengthen traditional villages by improving the public realm through enhancement of green infrastructure measures and sustainable transport linkages	This action was assessed during draft plan and was recommended for mitigation to enhance environmental performance. The inclusion of this action will not in itself result in significant land use effects and will not have the potential alone, or in combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites
SDCC participates in the national Cycle Right programme bringing cycle training to pupils in primary and secondary schools throughout the city area. SDCC works closely with An Taisce Green Schools on the Green Travel theme and encourages increased cycling through support for cycle training, on site cycle parking and improvements to	This action to promote bike sharing within the plan area will not have the potential, alone, or in combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

Chief Executive Recommendation	Appropriate Assessment Screening
<p>the physical environment identified by pupils.</p> <p>Cycle Training Programme for 6th Class students / Pedal Power Labs</p> <p>SDCC will continue to seek new and expand on existing partnerships to encourage sustainable travel and safer travel behaviours.</p> <p>SDCC will establish a portal dedicated to communication and promotion of active travel within existing platforms</p>	
<p>SDCC will engage with local communities to develop a vision for the future of their neighbourhoods with a strong focus on local living, sustainable mobility and quality of life</p>	<p>The inclusion of this action will not in itself result in land use effects and will not have the potential alone, or in combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.</p>
<p>The Council will undertake an assessment of the number of existing and potential future Electric Vehicle Charge points in its jurisdiction.</p>	<p>The inclusion of this action will not in itself result in land use effects and will not have the potential alone, or in combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.</p>
<p>Develop template to capture impacts, response and costs (including ecosystem services/natural capital costs) for all major climate events</p> <p>Update DLA urban drainage and flooding policies for current knowledge of flood risk and the latest best</p>	<p>The above actions were assessed during draft plan preparation and were recommended for mitigation to enhance environmental performance</p> <p>The inclusion of this action will not in itself result in land use effects and will not have the potential alone, or in combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to</p>

Chief Executive Recommendation	Appropriate Assessment Screening
<p>practice in drainage design promoting natural flood measures as a priority</p> <p>Minor flood schemes and general maintenance that are designed and implemented to promote nature based solutions where practical</p> <p>Communication and awareness campaigns on flood risk management and natural flood management measures</p> <p>Include native species into local authority plans where appropriate as a key nature based measure where appropriate</p>	<p>European Sites.</p>
<p>Promote programmes to advise businesses on reducing waste e.g. Eco-Merit</p> <p>Promote recycling and the circular economy to householders through a range of workshops, talks and programmes</p> <p>Explore collaboration with stakeholders such as Refill.ie to reduce single use items.</p>	<p>The inclusion of these actions and amendment to actions will not in itself result in land use effects and will not have the potential alone, or in combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.</p>

2.0 SCREENING CONCLUSION & DETERMINATION

All actions recommended in the Chief Executive's Report have been subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment. All actions have been found not to have the potential alone, or in combination with other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. The inclusion of these actions in the CCAP will not have the potential to result in negative effects to the Conservation Objectives of European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the CCAP and an Appropriate Assessment of these actions are not required.