



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

**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2021**

## **South Dublin County Council Climate Change Action Plan – Annual Progress Report 2021**

This Annual Progress Report for the Climate Change Action Plan has been prepared by the South Dublin County Council Climate Action team in conjunction with Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency and the Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and in partnership with the Environment Strategic Policy Committee and the Elected Members of South Dublin County Council.

**Date:** October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Foreword/Executive Summary

South Dublin County Council approved the Draft Climate Change Action Plan on the 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. The South Dublin Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 identified 130 actions across 6 thematic action areas.

Progress on achieving the targets outlined in the plan has continued over the past twelve months with over 90% of the actions either completed or advancing.

The Climate Change Action Plan sets out how South Dublin County Council will improve its energy efficiency and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. It commits to making South Dublin a more climate resilient county and to engaging with our citizens.

Steady headway is being made towards achieving our targets, however as legislation is reviewed and updated, our targets will be revised accordingly. Our current targets are;

1. A 50% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030. South Dublin County Council achieved a 45.7% improvement in energy efficiency by the end of 2020 through a range of measures including upgrades to our public lighting stock and civic buildings, both of which are identified as significant energy users in our Annual Energy Reviews and monitored through the SEAI monitoring and reporting platform.
2. A 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050. Projects such as the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, transitioning our municipal fleet to Electric Vehicles and the continued improvement in energy efficiency of our facilities and services will support our efforts in reducing GHG emissions. South Dublin has also signed up to Breathlife campaign and WHO targets on air quality.
3. To make Dublin a climate resilient County by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related event. The development of Green Infrastructure and Parks and Open Spaces strategies, Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance, Strategic Floor Risk Assessments, Mobility Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan will feed into and inform the County Development Plan 2022-2028, making Climate Change and resilience fundamental to all future developments. Our Flood Alleviation Schemes on the Poddle, Whitechurch and Camac will protect homes and properties and help communities become resilient against the effects of Climate Change. We will continue to work and collaborate with our neighbouring Local Authorities, The

Dublin Metropolitan CARO, Regional Authorities and national bodies to make South Dublin Climate Resilient.

4. To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change.

Engaging with the citizens of South Dublin is the key to achieving all climate action targets. Homeowners, communities and businesses in South Dublin are informed of our projects and strategies through workshops, consultations, social media and in person events with opportunities to voice opinions and ideas. Dublin Climate Action Week 21 presented the citizens of Dublin with a range of workshops and events to engage with South Dublin County Council on Climate Awareness.

South Dublin County Council provides an annual Climate Innovation Fund of €300,000 to encourage projects aimed at addressing Climate Change.

We have reached the end of the second reporting period of the Climate Change Action Plan. Good progress has been made towards delivering the initial targets presented in 2019. Our work will continue with our Elected Members, communities and business partners to review and the objectives set out in our Climate Change Action Plan

Teresa Walsh

Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change

South Dublin County Council

October 2021

## Contents

Foreword/Executive Summary .....	3
1.0. Introduction .....	7
2.0. Update from CARO .....	8
2.1. Background.....	8
2.2. Updates to policy and legislation since the adoption of the CCAP .....	8
2.3. Decarbonising Zones .....	12
2.4. National Development Plan 2021 to 2030 .....	13
2.5. National Biodiversity Action Plan Audit 2021 .....	13
2.6. Covid 19 Impact.....	14
2.7. Climate Action Regional Office.....	16
2.7.1. Management and Governance.....	18
2.7.2. Climate Adaptation .....	18
2.7.3. Climate Mitigation .....	19
2.7.4. Communications and Citizen Engagement .....	19
2.7.5. Training and Education .....	19
2.7.6. Knowledge Development .....	20
2.8. Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme .....	20
2.8.1. Strengthening communications.....	21
2.8.2. Community outreach.....	21
2.8.3. Changing behaviour and empowering local adaptation .....	22
2.8.4. Providing expertise to national policy formation .....	22
2.8.5. Dublin Climate Action Week 2021 .....	23
3.0. Update from CoDEMA.....	24
3.1. Energy Management.....	24
3.2. Energy and Climate Awareness .....	25
3.3. Dublin Region Energy Master Plan .....	25
3.4. District Heating .....	26
3.5. Sustainable Energy Communities .....	26
3.6. EU Projects.....	27
4.0. South Dublin County Council Climate Change Action Updates 2021 .....	32
4.1. 2020 Energy Review.....	32
4.2. CCAP return to DECC .....	33
4.3. Tallaght District Heating Project.....	33
4.4. Decarbonising Zone.....	35

4.5.	Climate Action Week.....	35
4.5.1.	Events in South Dublin.....	36
4.5.2.	Reaching Audiences .....	39
4.6.	Climate Action Communications Strategy .....	40
4.6.1.	Newsletter.....	40
4.6.2.	Website.....	40
4.7.	Sustainable Energy Communities .....	40
4.8.	Draft Dublin Air Quality Plan .....	42
4.9.	Climate Action Awareness Training .....	43
5.0.	CCAP 2019-2024 Action Updates .....	44
5.1.	Energy and Buildings Action Updates .....	44
5.2.	Transport Action Updates .....	54
5.3.	Flood Resilience Action Updates .....	67
5.4.	Nature Based Solutions Action Updates .....	74
5.5.	Resource Management Action Updates .....	84
6.0.	Appendices .....	92
6.1.	Appendix I : References.....	92
6.2.	Appendix II : Local Authority Climate Action Charter .....	94
6.3.	Appendix III : List of Acronyms.....	97

## 1.0. Introduction

South Dublin County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 was approved on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 in accordance with the National Adaptation Framework – Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2018 (NAF)<sup>1</sup>. The Plan was also completed in accordance with the requirements of the Covenant of Mayors (COM)<sup>2</sup> for Climate & Energy to which South Dublin County Council is a signatory.

The Plan sets out four key targets and 130 actions that the Council will undertake in the areas of energy & buildings, transport, flood resilience, nature-based solutions and resource management. The Plan has been developed by South Dublin County Council in conjunction with the City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (Codema) and the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO). The Plan was subject to public consultation and Strategic Environmental Assessment processes. Annual progress reports are required as part of the NAF and COM processes. South Dublin County Council has committed to reviewing and reporting on this Plan annually.

This report refers to the reporting period from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 to 30<sup>st</sup> September, 2021. Refer to tables in Chapter 5 for supporting information and progress updates.

## 2.0. Update from CARO

### 2.1. Background

It was agreed at the CARO Regional Steering Group in March 2020 that it would be useful to agree a standard template for the annual progress report for the Climate Change Action Plans (CCAPs) for all 4 Dublin LAs. The content, format and look of the final CCAPs has been well received across the region and it is proposed that a similar format be used to provide annual progress on the CCAPs. A standard template would also provide a regional focus for the CCAPs and the thematic action areas.

Separately, The CAROs have produced an excel based template report that will be used by LAs across Ireland to formally report progress on their Climate Change Action/Adaptation plans to the Government (DECC) by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Outputs such as graphs, text updates on actions etc. from the CARO-DECC template can be used to complete of the CCAP Annual Progress Report.

This document is a Draft outline of the format of the annual progress report as agreed by CARO and Codema in conjunction with the Dublin LA Climate teams.

### 2.2. Updates to policy and legislation since the adoption of the CCAP

The policy and legislative context relating to climate action has developed since the adoption of the CCAP.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021<sup>3</sup> was signed into law by the President of Ireland on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2021 enacting the pursuit of a higher level of climate action targets and ambition over the next decades including for the local government sector. The Act provides for approval of plans, by the government, towards achieving the National Climate Objective. The National Climate Objective refers to the transitioning of the country to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable, and climate neutral economy by no later than 2050. The Act introduces the development of carbon budgets and sectoral emission ceilings covering successive five-year periods up to 2050. The Act states that carbon budgets for the purpose of achieving the National Climate Objective shall be proposed by the Climate Change Advisory Council and approved by government for a five-year period with new budgets introduced for each subsequent 5-year period thereafter. The first two carbon budget cycles will be aimed



towards achieving a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the end of 2030, using 2018 as the baseline year. The emissions to be taken into account in carbon budget will be determined by regulations introduced by government and will have regard to European Union rules in this area. Additionally, sectoral emission ceilings may differ between sectors and change over time based on performances against previous sectoral emission ceiling thresholds.

The Act also tasks the government with the development of a National Long-Term Climate Action Strategy, covering a minimum period of 30 years, and a National Adaptation Framework. The Long-Term Climate Action Strategy will be updated every 5 years taking account of how the country is progressing towards the National Climate Objective. Additionally, the government is required to update the Climate Action Plan 2019: To Tackle Climate Breakdown on an annual basis. The updated Climate Action Plan is expected to be published later this year. The Act requires that government, in developing these strategies, plans and frameworks, have regard for climate justice and a just transition.

Within 12 months of the enactment of the Act, local authorities will be requested by the Minister to prepare and make Local Authority Climate Action Plans. These Plans are to highlight the mitigation and adaptation measures that will be adopted during the next 5-year period. Local Authority Climate Action Plans are to be consistent with the most recently approved Climate Action Plan and National Adaptation Framework and have regard for the most recently approved Long-Term Climate Action Strategy, the most recently approved Sectoral Adaptation Plans, the National Planning Framework and any current Climate Change Policies. Local authorities are to cooperate with adjoining local authorities in the development of their Climate Action Plans.

A further provision of the Bill provides that the Minister may issue guidelines in respect of the content and preparation of the local authority climate action plans and that local authorities shall comply with these guidelines.

To support local authorities in the preparation of their Local Authority Climate Action Plan and in response to the provisions of the Bill, Climate Ireland/EPA and the Climate Action Regional Offices under the oversight of a project advisory group, are now working in partnership to advance a set of guidelines for local authorities. Dublin CARO, Codema and Dublin City Council are represented on this group. As the four Dublin Local Authorities have already prepared Climate Change Action Plans, comprising adaptation and mitigation actions,

it is the intention that existing plans will be aligned with the requirement of this new national guidance and increased level of ambition stemming from the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and forthcoming National Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 also included an amendment of Section 10(2) (n) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 whereby, to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions as well as addressing adaptation requirements, County Development Plans will need to take account of Local Authority Climate Action Plans. The reviews of the four Dublin local authorities' development plans have involved input from Dublin CARO and cross-referencing of draft policies and objectives with the current Climate Action Plans. Furthermore, mid-term reviews of the respective City and County Development Plans, will be an important aspect of future iterations of Local Authority Climate Action Plans.

COP 26 - Ireland is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 2016<sup>4</sup>. For nearly three decades, the UN has been convening 195 signatory countries and 191 parties for Global Climate Summits called 'COPs' which stands for 'Conference of the Parties'. As an EU member state, Ireland is bound to targets for the EU-27 and will, therefore, be attending COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2021. At the Paris climate summit in December 2015 (COP 21), 196 nations agreed to hold global temperature rises to "well below 2° C (degree Celsius)," with an aspiration to limit rises to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels. However, the pledges on emissions – known as nationally determined contributions, or NDCs – they brought were insufficient to fulfil either goal, and would have led to catastrophic heating of at least 3° C. Therefore, a "ratchet mechanism" was included to require countries to return to the negotiating table every five years with fresh targets to meet the temperature goals. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had earlier confirmed that that unless there are rapid, sustained and large-scale reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C will be beyond reach<sup>5</sup>. COP26 is described by the UN as a "window of opportunity that gets smaller by the day"<sup>6</sup>. In September 2021, 45 countries making up the Climate Vulnerable Forum released a statement calling for COP26 to deliver a "Climate Emergency Pact" to rebuild confidence in international climate cooperation, accelerate adaptation and to keep 1.5°C within reach<sup>7</sup>. A proposed "Glasgow pact", would allow for future updates to emissions pledges in the next few years

that could be sufficient for the world to stay within scientific advice on carbon levels<sup>8</sup>. Each country can review and update its pledges on an annual basis, and, based on UN recommendations for this, there may be such updates proposed for the EU-27 to overcome the gap. The EU-27 are trying to achieve consensus on a common timeframe for emission-cutting pledges<sup>9</sup>. The Irish Sustainable Finance Roadmap will be published in Q4 of 2021. In Ireland, significant progress has been made in terms of the passage of new legislation, governance and financial structures (the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021) as above). Further information is available on the official UNCOP website - <https://ukcop26.org> and on the official Twitter channel @cop26.

In August 2021, the first of three Working Group reports from the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment report (AR6)** was released. The Working group 1 report: The Physical Science Basis addresses the most updated physical understanding of the climate system and climate change and drew the following conclusions:

- Recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and unprecedented in thousands of years.
- It is indisputable that human activities are causing climate change, making extreme climate events, including heat waves, heavy rainfall, and droughts, more frequent and severe
- To limit global warming, strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and other greenhouse gases are necessary.
- This would not only reduce the consequences of climate change but also improve air quality.
- Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways.
- The changes we experience will increase with further warming.
- There's no going back from some changes in the climate system. However, some changes could be slowed and others could be stopped by limiting warming.
- Unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5°C will be beyond reach.

The **Climate Status of Ireland 2020 Report**<sup>10</sup> was published in August 2021. The report prepared for the Environmental Protection Agency, Marine Institute and Met Éireann by MaREI, University College Cork confirms and updates findings from a 2012 report and details how global changes are being reflected in our atmosphere, oceans and our landscape. Key findings include:

- The annual average surface air temperature in Ireland has increased by over 0.9°C over the last 120 years, with a rise in temperature being observed in all seasons.
- Annual precipitation was 6% higher in the period 1989 to 2018, compared to the 30-year period 1961 to 1990.
- The concentration of the main climate driver: greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide - measured in Ireland, continued to increase since 2012 with long term implications for our climate.
- Satellite observations indicate that the sea level around Ireland has risen by approximately 2-3mm per year since the early 1990s.
- Measurements in the surface water to the west of Ireland indicate an increase in ocean acidity which is comparable to the rate of change in oceans around the world.
- The average sea surface temperature measured at Malin Head has been 0.47°C higher over the last ten years compared to the period 1981-2010.
- There is an increase in river flows across most of Ireland since the early 70s. However, there is evidence in recent years of an increase in potential drought conditions especially in the east.
- Land cover observations since 1990 show increases in the areas covered by artificial surfaces and forest whilst there is a decrease in wetland areas.

### 2.3. Decarbonising Zones

The National Climate Action Plan 2019 contains 183 actions some of which are relevant to the Local Authority Sector. The Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage are the lead for Action 165 of the National Climate Action Plan 2019 which requires Local Authorities to identify and implement a 'Decarbonising Zone' (DZ)<sup>11</sup> in each of their areas. A circular issued by DHLGH to Local Authorities in February 2021 requires that *'Once candidate decarbonising zones are identified, and subject to additional guidance and feedback each local*

*authority must develop DZ Implementation Plans'. A DZ Working group has been set up chaired by DHLGH comprising representatives of DECC, SEAI, EMRA, CCMA, LGMA, OPR and CARO with a view to assisting the sector in implementing this action.*

Climate action features prominently in the new **Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland**<sup>12</sup> which was published in September 2021. The actions in Housing for All have been developed to support the targets and objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Climate Action Plan. Of particular relevance to the local authority sector is that *'to improve the quality of existing Local Authority owned housing stock, Local Authorities will retrofit 36,500 Local Authority homes to a B2/cost optimal Building Energy Rating (BER) by 2030'*.

#### 2.4. National Development Plan 2021 to 2030

The National Development Plan<sup>13</sup> (NDP) 2021 to 2030 was published on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. In relation to Climate Action and the Environment, extensive efforts have been made to ensure that the NDP will support the Government's climate ambitions. For the first time in Ireland, climate and environmental assessment of the NDP measures has been undertaken, along with an assessment of the alignment of the plan as a whole with the ideals of a green recovery plan. Significant funding commitments are detailed in relation to a range of areas relevant to climate action including investments in public transport, active transport such as walking and cycling, funding for retrofitting projects, investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The role of spatial planning is particularly important in driving climate action and low carbon development.

#### 2.5. National Biodiversity Action Plan Audit 2021

The National Biodiversity Forum audited the Interim Review of Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan, which expires in 2021. They have suggested that the Government can use the SDGs and the Climate Action Units established in some departments as frameworks for mainstreaming biodiversity across policy and beyond and that this should be complemented by establishing a cross-party working group on biodiversity. They have called for the extension of, and increased linkages between, protected areas to address migrations due to climate

change. They have also sought for Government to stimulate and facilitate cross-disciplinary research between biodiversity, climate, water and economics. They state that nature and biodiversity can play a central role in achieving national and sub-national net-zero carbon targets.

## 2.6. Covid 19 Impact

At the time of writing, it is proposed that many restrictions which the country has been living with for more than 18 months will be lifted. The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on all levels of society with over 5000 deaths nationwide and nearly 370,000 total confirmed cases. The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) noted in its August 2021 report *'Exploring the Impact of Covid-19 and Recovery Paths for the Economy'*<sup>14</sup> that *'the economic outlook is uncertain and depends on factors including the possibility of new waves of the virus, the emergence of new virus mutations, the stringency and duration of continued and/or new containment measures, the success of measures in controlling the spread of the virus, effective vaccines being rolled out and the behavioural response of consumers and firms when the economy reopens etc.'*

Local authorities continue to respond to the additional needs of its businesses and citizens during this time in terms of adaptations to public realm including the provision of outdoor dining space, footpath space and cycling infrastructure to improve the liveability and mobility in areas and to support business to operating under COVID restrictions. Some actions, such as cycling and pedestrian improvements included in Climate Change Action Plans were expedited due to the mobility requirements arising from the pandemic. Thus, some actions will be achieved earlier than anticipated, and further actions may arise from temporary/trial installations.

The use of and access to green space and other local authority facilities was important to Dublin citizens during times of restrictions. Lockdowns restricted movement of people to varying degrees and resulted in a respite for wildlife at certain locations from human disturbance. The restrictions on movement, including air travel, resulted in more Dubliners having "staycations" and foregoing foreign holidays. This resulted in increased numbers of people availing of local amenities, parks and beaches creating additional demands on car parking, access paths and visitor facilities. While visitors sought the restorative aspects of

contact with nature, this resulted in increased levels of disturbance of wildlife and impacts on biodiversity, including habitats and species vulnerable to climate change.

The sector also redesigned existing business processes, provided enhanced internal I.T. services to support staff working from home, improved online service provision for public/businesses and developed enhanced internal I.T. capabilities to support internal services. Sectors were agile in moving public consultation events on-line. These processes will continue to evolve as restrictions are relaxed and a hybrid work model is employed by the sector.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has had significant impacts on many people's incomes as well as income to the Council. This income deficit has had an effect on the progression of some actions within the CCAP. For example, some actions were postponed, site work and site visits were delayed or curtailed. Progress on the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, and the development of greenways, cycleways and associated infrastructure was delayed due to the national shutdown of the construction sector.

The decline of activities during the Covid-19 pandemic was found to have caused a 6.4% decrease of global GHG emissions<sup>15</sup>, or 2.3 billion tonnes, in 2020. This was significant, but was smaller than scientists expected and the United Nations Environment Programme estimates that the world would need to cut carbon emissions by 7.6% per year for the next decade to prevent the globe from warming more than 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Reductions on this scale would be even larger than 2020's drop in emissions. In Ireland, estimates prepared by the EPA and SEAI indicate a reduction in Ireland's total emissions of 5.9% in 2020 compared to 2019 levels<sup>16</sup>, which is lower than the global average. There was wide variation in reductions between different sectors, with transport, notably aviation, emissions showing the greatest decreases both nationally and globally in both studies. A sustained reduction in GHG emissions is required to address climate change, as GHGs remain in the atmosphere for many years. Despite economic and travel restrictions in the first quarter of 2021, Ireland's GHG emissions in 2021 have risen compared to 2020 levels, according to a review by Friends of the Environment<sup>17</sup>, as a return to "business as usual" happens. The UN Environment Programme warns that, despite the Covid-19 drop in emissions, the world is still heading for a temperature rise in excess of 3°C this century – far beyond the Paris Agreement



Figure 2.1 Social distancing measures in place for outdoor events

### 2.7. Climate Action Regional Office

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) were established in 2018 in response to Action 8 of the 2018 National Adaptation Framework (NAF) – *Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland*. The offices are mandated to co-ordinate engagement across the varying levels of government and help build on experience and expertise that exists in the area of climate change and climate action. The offices have a role in driving climate action at both regional and local levels, including supporting the implementation of local adaptation plans/Climate Change Action Plans.

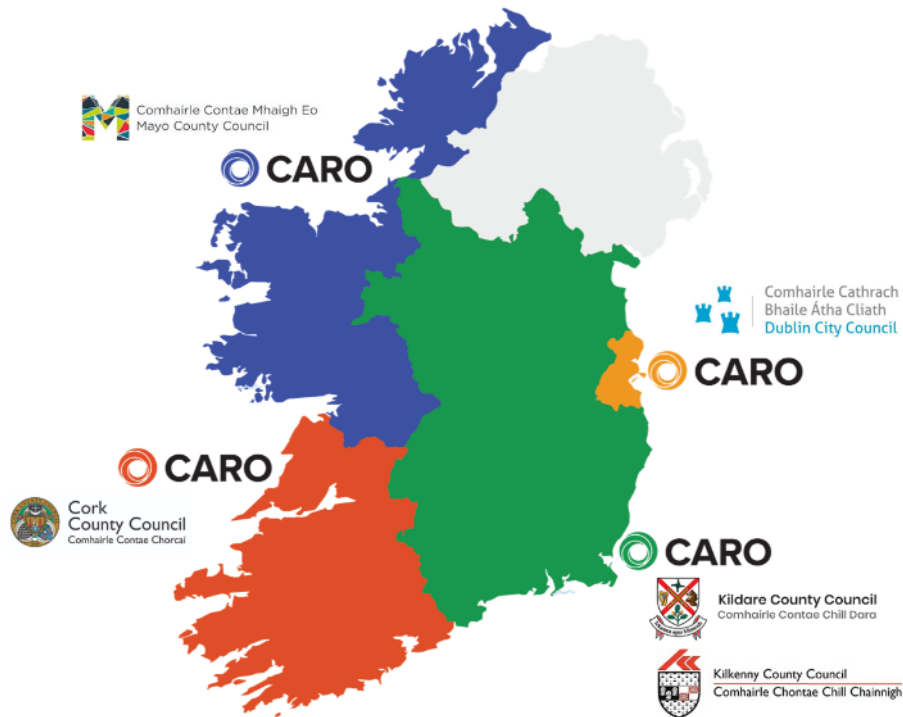
The composition of the four Climate Action Regions has been determined by the geographical and topographical characteristics, vulnerabilities and shared climate risks experienced across



local authority areas. The four CARO regions, constituent local authorities and associated lead authorities are shown in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1:** Climate Action Regional Offices

Climate Action Region	Local Authority function area	Lead Authority
<b>Dublin Metropolitan</b>	Dublin City, Dun-Laoghaire-Rathdown, South Dublin, Fingal	Dublin City Council
<b>Eastern and Midlands</b>	Carlow, Cavan, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow	Kildare County Council with support from Kilkenny County Council
<b>Atlantic Seaboard North</b>	Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Galway City & County	Mayo County Council
<b>Atlantic Seaboard South</b>	Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork City & County.	Cork County Council



**Figure 2.2:** Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs)

The Dublin Metropolitan CARO has been working closely with the four Dublin Climate Teams and Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency to support the implementation of their Climate Change Action Plans. The Dublin CARO has a regional steering group comprising the four Director of Services of the Dublin Local Authorities, and colleagues from Codema and the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly. Examples of projects across the six key areas of the CARO work programme are included below;

2.7.1. Management and Governance

- National, Regional and local climate team meetings
- Participation in sectoral adaptation steering groups and working groups
- Preparation of detailed business case to support climate action for the local authority sector
- Participation in relevant CCMA/LGMA and Government working groups on Climate Action

2.7.2. Climate Adaptation

- Assisting local authorities with implementation and reporting of Climate Change Adaptation /Action Plans including implementation guidance

- Preparation of guidance such as guidance document for adaptation of regional & local roads
- Working with Government Departments and agencies on the implementation of sectoral adaptation plans
- Collaborating with key climate actors such as Climate Ireland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Universities
- Participation on National Working Groups such as new Coastal Change Strategy Steering Group

#### 2.7.3. Climate Mitigation

- Preparation of guidance on topics such as Decarbonisation Zones, Sustainable Energy Communities, Carbon Offsetting etc.
- Participation in Regional and National Electric Vehicle (EV) working groups
- Collaboration with energy agencies (where in place) and SEAI on energy related projects
- Identifying and assisting local authorities with projects eligible for the National Climate Action Fund

#### 2.7.4. Communications and Citizen Engagement

- Presentations to Councils, Government Departments and Agencies, youth organisations and the general public
- Supporting individual local authorities with community engagement events including climate action workshops
- Collaboration with key stakeholders such as GAA on Green Clubs Programme, Comhairle Na Nóg, Age Friendly Ireland etc.
- Use of CARO website and social media communication channels
- Prepare submissions on climate relevant public consultations
- Assist Local Authorities with 'Climate Conversations' with PPNs and Comhairle Na Nóg as part of public consultation to National Climate Action Plan 2021

#### 2.7.5. Training and Education

- Preparation and rollout of a comprehensive Climate Action training plan for the LA sector across all levels (see below for further details)
- Identification of external training and upskilling opportunities in climate action for the Local Authority Sector

- Collaboration with expert organisations and representative bodies for tailored workshops and training seminars

#### 2.7.6. Knowledge Development

- Development of online Weather impacts Reporting App (WIRE) for Local Authorities
- Preparation of guidance and position papers on climate action areas
- Identification and communication of funding opportunities for climate action projects in local authorities and assistance with application process
- Participation in relevant climate action research projects from the Environmental Protection Agency research programmes and other funding programmes
- Engaging with local authorities and Regional Assemblies on planning issues relating to climate action including the hosting of planning workshops

### 2.8. Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme

A key focus of the CARO work programme for 2021 has been the roll out of climate action training across the local authority sector. This training plan has been developed by the CAROs in collaboration with partners such as the Local Authority Environmental Services



Training Group (LASTNG), Climate Ireland, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Met Éireann, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Institute for Public Administration and others. Training has been targeted at all staff levels and focuses on the following six pillar areas;

- *Climate Action Leadership* – aimed at all elected members & senior staff
- *Climate Action Awareness Training* – aimed at building capacity across climate action teams
- *General Awareness Building* – online training for all indoor staff to raise awareness of climate action
- *Practical Climate Action* – training for all outdoor staff to assist them to deliver practical climate action measures

- *Behavioral Change Training* – to empower staff to promote positive change both internally and across the community
- *Specific and Targeted Training* – training arising from specific knowledge gaps or individual policy/role requirements, such as spatial planning, flood risk management and

Despite COVID restrictions, the training programme advanced in interactive online formats and workshops throughout the year across all counties. Four of the six training pillars having commenced with over 6,500 staff completing the Raising Awareness training alone. Championing Leadership training has been completed by 560 senior staff and elected members across 15 local authorities and will be undertaken for Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin County Councils by the end of the year. Dublin County Council will complete this training in Q1 2022. Other key work areas for Dublin CARO throughout 2021 included:

#### 2.8.1. [Strengthening communications](#)

This has been primarily by developing the CARO website and the CARO quarterly e-newsletter. The CARO website was launched in February 2021 and has had over 127,000 views since then. The most popular sections of the website include projects, research, local authority climate action, training and academic courses. The CARO newsletter has many subscribers across a range of local authorities, agencies, government departments, academia and members of the public. Both the website and the newsletter are key tools for dissemination of information on climate policy, research, funding, events, training and examples of climate action work across the local authority sector.

#### 2.8.2. [Community outreach](#)

Working with the four Dublin Local Authorities and Codema a significant amount of work and events were undertaken as part of the Dublin Climate Action Week in September to deliver a programme of in person and online events to showcase climate action. Additional outreach will be achieved through the delivery of recorded webinars on the CARO website for future use. Other events have included working with partners such as Age Friendly Ireland An Taisce

Climate Ambassadors and 3<sup>rd</sup> Level universities to participate in events and workshops on climate action.

### 2.8.3. Changing behaviour and empowering local adaptation

CARO provided supports in completing two successful applications on behalf of local authorities to the Creative Ireland 'Creative Climate Action' Fund:

1. DCC successfully applied for funding from Creative Ireland for the '*Creative Climate Action Crumlin*' project. This one-year project commenced in September 2021 with community workshops. Project partners are: DCC (project lead), Crumlin Community Clean Up (community lead), Dublin Circus Project, CARO, Codema and other partners. The target is to develop programmes of behavioural change created by 3,000 residents to influence the wider community. It involves local community leaders, scientists, artists, activists through a year-long festival of events in Crumlin for capacity-building and long-term results. A project coordinator is to be appointed in Q4 2021.
2. Trinity College Dublin in conjunction with CARO and with support of a number of Local Authorities submitted a successful application to the Creative Ireland Climate Action Fund. The project entitled '*Línte na Farráige*' is a collaborative project, with a team including scientists, based at TCD, Maynooth University, University College Cork, the Dublin CARO, local authorities, Irish creators, and Finnish artists Timo Aho and Pekka Niittyvirta. It seeks to connect the public visually and tangibly to the risks from future sea levels. Interactive educational resources provided on the project website and information boards, will encourage the participant to understand society's role in reducing carbon emissions and act accordingly. A selection of videos will be created to record the visual art for future generations. The planning phase of the project has commenced with installations due to be in place in Q2 2022.

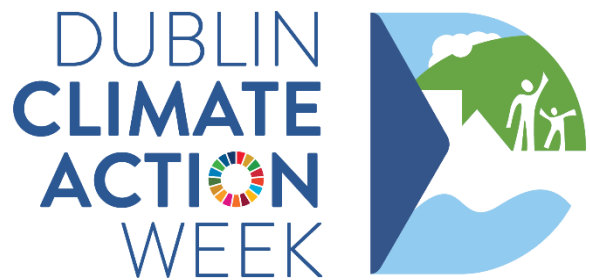
### 2.8.4. Providing expertise to national policy formation

CARO contributed to policy development as a member of expert groups and for the following publications:

- Project Advisory Group on Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines;
- Dublin Local Authority Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy;
- Local Authority Electrification of Fleet and EV Charging Guidance ;
- Local Authority GPP Training Steering Group; and
- Dublin's Energy Transition Roadmap (Zero Together).

#### 2.8.5. Dublin Climate Action Week 2021

The four Dublin local authorities in conjunction with Codema and CARO organised ‘*Dublin Climate Action Week*’ in September 2021. The overall vision of Dublin Climate Action Week 2021 was – ‘to highlight Dublin’s climate action progress to its citizens



and demonstrate the leadership role of the four local authorities in conjunction with other partners’.

The steering group worked together to devise a programme of events and promotional material to showcase the shared objectives of the initiative which were to:

- Demonstrate progress on the implementation of the four Dublin local authority Climate Change Action Plans, and a regional approach to climate action;
- Engage with a full range of partners to share knowledge on efforts and innovation across sectors;
- Make climate action a ‘reality’ allowing citizens to see what climate action looks like;
- Promote this initiative so as to fully engage with EU and international cities and our climate peers; and
- Create a legacy so that this initiative can carry forward to subsequent years in a variety of ways.

The website [www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie](http://www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie) was established as a portal for information and booking of events. In total over 75 in-person and on-line events were delivered across the CCAP theme areas of Energy & Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature Based Solutions, Resource Management and Citizen Engagement. The website continues to be a repository of information containing recordings of events and links to local authority work in the area of

climate action. In addition to the website, the handle #DCAW21 was used in conjunction with regional and local videos and various media to promote and highlight the activities during the week both locally nationally and internationally.

### 3.0. Update from CoDEMA

The following is a non-exhaustive summary of some of the main activities Codema has undertaken in the last 12 months. Since the Climate Change Action Plan's publication in 2019, Codema has continued its work as the energy advisor to the four Dublin Local Authorities (DLAs).

#### 3.1. Energy Management

Codema assists in the direct energy management within South Dublin County Council (SDCC), completing the SEAI Monitoring and Reporting to show the authority's progress towards its 2020 33% energy efficiency improvement target, and now its revised 50% improvement target for 2030. SDCC has surpassed its 2020 energy efficiency target by reducing its energy use by 45.7% compared to the baseline. In addition to this, a target of a 50% absolute reduction in energy-related GHGs has also been set by 2030. This target will use a separate baseline to the energy efficiency target, taking an average of emissions from 2016-2018. Codema has begun to assess what additional actions will be required to achieve this target, using the latest Gap-to-Target tool developed by SEAI. By the end of 2020, SDCC had reduced its GHG emissions by 37% compared to this baseline. A project management plan was completed for an initial small-scale solar PV project at Arthurstown Landfill site, with a follow up meeting conducted to determine the next steps required for this project and a larger commercial-scale PV project on the site. Nineteen DECAs were generated for public buildings in 2021. Codema was awarded significant funding from the EU Horizon 2020 Programme in 2021 to develop a Project Implementation Unit for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Dublin over the next four years. Under this DeliveREE project, 20 SDCC facilities have been proposed for energy projects within the project pipeline. In conjunction with this, Codema is working with the four Dublin Local Authorities to develop a



Pathfinder funding application with SEAI, which could provide up to 50% capital funding for these projects.

### 3.2. Energy and Climate Awareness

As one of the organising partners, Codema worked very closely with South Dublin County Council throughout the organisation and implementation of Dublin Climate Action Week 2021. There was excellent synergy and collaboration achieved across the Codema and Dublin City Council teams, resulting in a cohesive and informative week of events. Codema continued to support the Home Energy Saving Kit Scheme across South Dublin County Council's libraries. Energy saving resources and social media content were provided to the libraries in order to maintain interest in the kits during the Covid19 pandemic; when the kits were unavailable to borrow. Codema developed a recorded demonstration of the Home Energy Saving Kits in order for the council's libraries to promote the scheme during Dublin's first Climate Action Week in September 2021. A webinar focusing on saving energy in the home was also provided during Dublin Climate Action Week and was targeted at library patrons as well as the general public. The Home Energy Saving Kit scheme has continued to expand nationally, with the kits now available to borrow from 116 libraries across Ireland.

### 3.3. Dublin Region Energy Master Plan

Codema is developing the Dublin Regional Energy Master Plan through the SEAI Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) programme. The aim of this project is to evaluate and outline the cost-optimal, spatially possible and technically feasible low-carbon scenarios for Dublin to meet its 2030 and 2050 CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets from the perspective of society, energy consumers and the energy sector. This project looks at the three main energy sectors (heat, electricity and transport) and the synergies between them to deliver more cost-effective low-carbon pathways for the region. It will look at current and future policy impacts and shortfalls to targets needed to make Dublin net carbon neutral by 2050. This is the first master plan of its kind in Ireland to look at the County and indeed small area level and to assess which solutions will work best within local constraints. The finished plan will aid planners and other decision makers in all energy related plans in the future.

### 3.4. District Heating

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme in South Dublin, is using waste heat from the Amazon data centre to provide low-carbon heating to several public and private buildings. The contract for this has been signed and work began in May 2021. It will be the first publicly owned not for profit heat utility company in Ireland and its aim is to bring low or zero carbon energy throughout the Tallaght district and beyond. Over €5m funding for the project was secured through the Interreg NWE HeatNet NWE and the Climate Action Fund.

### 3.5. Sustainable Energy Communities

Codema are the coordinators of the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Programme for the Dublin and Mid East region. The seven counties (4 Dublin LAs, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath) are each provided with a mentor to help advise the SECs and move them along their progress from learning about energy and climate change, to conducting an energy master plan and registry of opportunities to finally undertaking projects. The aim is to upskill and educate but also to reduce energy consumption through behavioural change, energy efficiency, renewable and smart solutions. The seven local authorities are acting as lead applicants on behalf of the SECs for their energy master plans providing finance to activate grants and procurement expertise for hiring consultants. Work has been carried out to improve and streamline the energy master plan process, to make it more accessible for SECs, by reducing risk and highlighting Stakeholders throughout the energy master plan. The tender will last for four years and has already proved very popular with twenty-seven new SECs signing up this year, and a current total of one hundred and forty SECs.

### 3.6. EU Projects

An area Codema has extensive knowledge and experience in is the application and execution of EU projects across a range of funding streams, at present we have several active projects, namely:

**HeatNet NWE:** The Interreg NWE HeatNet project aims to remove the policy, economic and technological barriers to fourth generation district heating in North-West Europe. It has six pilot projects and a budget of €11.5 million of which the Tallaght District Heating Scheme is one and has received over €1m in funding from the project.

**TOMORROW:** With the support of the H2020 'TOMORROW' project, Codema has made significant progress in relation to the Dublin Energy Transition Roadmap. - Through an engaging workshop in April 2021, Codema and the four Dublin Local Authorities identified key "frontrunners" across a diverse range of sectors to join the existing Transition Team. This team now consists of 18, highly motivated individuals tasked with - is developing a collaborative Transition Roadmap for the Dublin Region by the end of 2022, which will motivate citizens, local businesses, public authorities and transport groups to work together towards the same goal of developing Dublin as a sustainable, healthy, leading EU city by 2050. The Transition Team will be taking part in eight workshops. The first workshop will be taking place on Tuesday, September 28th 2021. The Transition Team has already been involved in the development of a brand name and visual identity for the roadmap process and successfully selected the name "Zero Together" which will be used to promote and engage stakeholders and the wider public in the development of the roadmap. As part of the wider public engagement campaign, Codema has developed and launched a survey to get the public's views on how to move Dublin away from fossil fuels. The responses to this will guide the Transition Team in how to better engage the public around the energy used at home, at work and while on the move, as well as inform actions for the Zero Together roadmap.

**Decarb City Pipes:** Codema are partners in the Decarb City Pipes 2050 project which kicked off in September 2020. This project is focused on the decarbonisation of heat through capacity building in cities. This includes creating local working groups (made up of key local

stakeholders within the cities of Bilbao, Bratislava, Dublin, Munich, Rotterdam, Vienna and Winterthur) to outline gaps in knowledge and current practices (planning methodologies, tools, policy instruments, effective governance structures, etc.) and then go about addressing these gaps through deep peer-to-peer learning with input from an experienced advisory board. An in-depth engagement process will be adopted to develop these roadmaps, to build strong effective working relationships within each city, and ensure strong buy-in from stakeholders. As part of this engagement process Codema have set up a local working group of key stakeholders for Dublin which includes the ESB, Gas Networks Ireland, Dublin City Council, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, Commission for Regulating Utilities, representatives from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communication, and Geological Survey Ireland. This group has agreed a heating outlook for Dublin as well as its members partaking in peer-to-peer knowledge sharing sessions in areas such as geothermal energy, example boiler replacement studies etc.

REDAP (Regional Energy Demand Analysis Portal) project, which was approved under the 2018 European Research Area Network (ERA-Net) Smart Energy Systems fund and is supported by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

REDAP, which started in November 2019 and will continue till March 2022, presents a cross-sectoral approach to regional energy systems and will help end-users to spatially visualise and better understand the characteristics of urban energy demand. This project builds on the work Codema had previously done in developing the Spatial Energy Demand Analysis (SEDAs), similar to the SEDAs, this project gives insight into the building stock and additionally, also provides information on the transport sector. It combines GIS with urban energy planning data to provide an integrated approach to energy in both the building and transport sectors, and spatial planning. This in turn enables planners, policy-makers and investors to make more informed decisions relating to energy demand, energy efficiency and renewable energy alternatives, whilst also generating an increased evidence base to inform further project feasibility and implementation.

QGasSP: Codema, along with Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Oivan were awarded the tender for QGasSP. This research is financed through the European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) Programme, which is an applied research programme aimed at supporting the formulation of territorial development policies in Europe. The objective of this research project is to produce a methodology that will allow planning authorities at national, regional and local administrative levels to quantify the influence of spatial planning policies on GHG emissions in a consistent manner. More specifically, the objective is to address the knowledge demands and technical requirements of the four stakeholders included within this Targeted Analysis Project, namely, the Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority (IE) who are the lead stakeholder in this project; Scottish Government – Planning & Architecture Division (UK); Department of Infrastructure, Northern Ireland (UK); and Regional Council of Kymenlaakso (FI).

The ESPON Targeted Analysis is a tool to develop cross-border evidence. For this project, the purpose of the targeted analysis is to identify robust methods for quantifying the relative impact on GHG emissions of alternative spatial planning policies to inform strategic alternatives. Codema's role in this project is to lead the case study pilots, building related GHG methodology and data collection. This project specifically targets the EMRA's RSES Regional Policy Objective (RPO) 3.6 - *City and county development plans shall undergo assessment of their impact on carbon reduction targets and shall include measures to monitor and review progress towards carbon reduction targets.*

DeliveREE will create an innovative project finance and delivery structure for EE projects in the Dublin region, across 4 municipalities, using various performance-based contracting structures. By creating a structured approach, DeliveREE will accelerate the formation of large-scale projects by standardising the project development process, allowing projects of various types and sizes to be aggregated to create scale. This enables the use of energy performance and energy supply contracts whose performance guarantees are both critical for achieving value for money and provide a mechanism for the involvement of private capital. DeliveREE will do this by:

- Creating a 'one stop shop' Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for project owners to go to for energy saving projects

- Creating an innovative standardised central project delivery system for processing potential projects to achieve speed of
- assessment and give confidence and familiarity to clients & market players
- Removing legal and administrative barriers through cooperatively designing approved assessment templates and
- procedures to ensure quality control and due diligence
- Aggregating projects, bundling multiple small and medium projects together to attract ESCo market and private financing, and gain large scale impact on efficiency in the building stock
- Using a range of performance-based contracts to ensure long-term guaranteed energy savings, and de-risk cash-flows

DeliveREE will test and develop the PIU with the roll-out of a pipeline of EE projects in public sector buildings and services across the 4 Dublin Local Authorities over 4 years. The pipeline includes over 140 buildings and sites across the 4 municipalities, including a mix of building types such as leisure centres, fire stations, theatres, libraries, head offices, community buildings and landfill treatment facilities. The project will save an average of 24GWh energy savings over the contract lifetime, amounting to 3.8 ktCO<sub>2</sub> savings. The total CapEx of the pipeline is €19.5m, with an estimated total contract value of these energy projects of circa €23.5m of which at least €9.75m will be privately financed. Based on the consortium's experience of delivering projects with a mix of financing sources, we aim to have a financing split of 20% project owner, 30% grant and 50% private financing on average across the contracts.

The DeliveREE consortium consists of technical, facilitation, project management, communications, procurement, legal and financial experts, as well as project owners who will test the DeliveREE structure. In addition to the four Dublin Local Authorities and Codema consortium includes:

- Resourceful Futures Ltd (UK) bring their extensive experience in legal, commercial and finance, from developing and deploying energy transition (power, heat and energy efficiency) and circular economy projects to remove legal and administrative barriers, and add bankability due diligence and project risk allocation.

- Philip Lee Solicitors Ltd has vast legal experience in large energy infrastructure projects and will provide expertise to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, including public procurement advice.
- Sustainable Development Capital LLC (SDCL) bring their in-depth experience of investing in EE; they manage the Irish Energy Efficiency fund and invest in EE retrofit projects and seek a return based on savings achieved.

## 4.0. South Dublin County Council Climate Change Action Updates 2021

### 4.1. 2020 Energy Review

South Dublin County Council received figures from CoDEMA relating to our 2020 energy performance, consumption and efficiency.

In 2020, SDCC consumed 39 gigawatt hours (GWh) of primary energy; equivalent to 6,899 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and an estimated cost of this energy use to be approximately €2.7 million. Codema has been entering this yearly data into the M&R system on behalf of SDCC since 2011, in order to comply with the reporting requirements of the European Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU. The directive has been transposed into Irish Law as Statutory Instrument S.I. 426 of 2014, which sets out several obligations on public bodies with respect to their “exemplary role” for energy efficiency by achieving savings of 33% by 2020. This is an average reduction target of 3% per year.

To date, as reported by the M&R system, SDCC has improved its energy performance by 45.7%, compared to the baseline year (which is an average of between 2006-2008). Therefore, SDCC has achieved their energy efficiency goal of 33% energy efficiency savings by 2020. It must be acknowledged that the SEAI is currently looking to change the methodology within the M&R system to account for the new 50% energy efficiency target by 2030 as set out in the national 2019 Climate Action Plan. SEAI is also looking at what was the impact of COVID on the local authority’s energy efficiency during 2020.

In relation to the new 50% energy efficiency target, there are a number of factors to be considered. First of all there is a significant saving that has been made from the decarbonisation of the grid which results in the primary energy conversion factor changing considerably since the baseline.

The other significant factor is the result of the lockdown on the local authority services and the resulting energy savings in 2020.

To balance the effect of these savings, the SEAI have announced new 50% carbon reduction target to 2030 and a review of the baseline from 2009 to an average of between 2016-2018. This will result in a more challenging target for the local authority over the decade as it is an



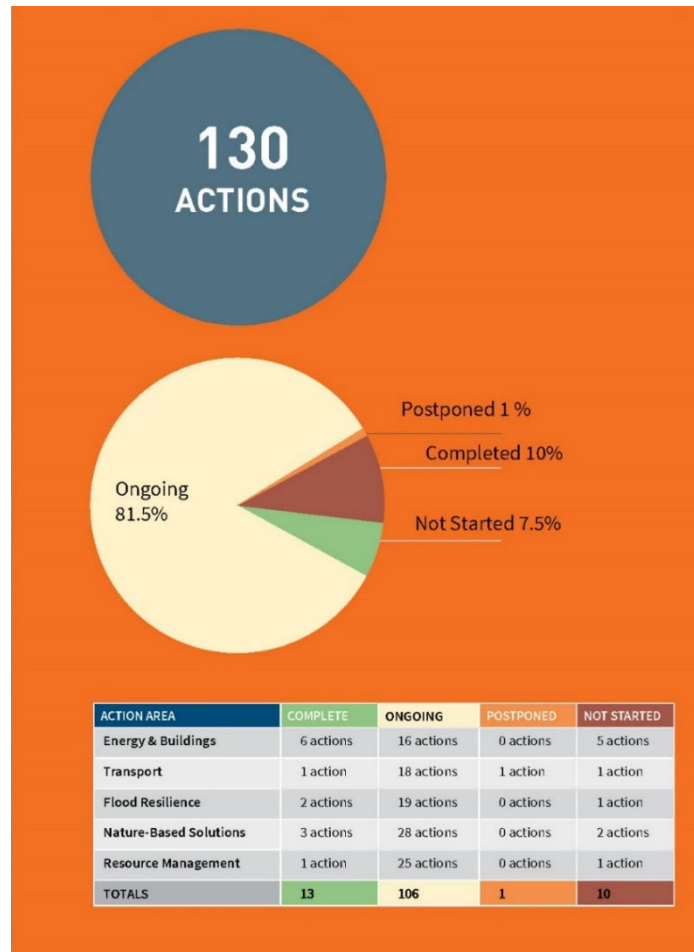
absolute target and will have to consider possible increase in energy use in the coming years as the dust settles from Covid-19 lockdown.

The SEAI have also announced that they will be performing an analysis of the impact of COVID on the local authorities energy efficiency during the pandemic.

SDCC are currently awaiting the publication of the 2020 Annual Review for a full breakdown and analysis of the results.

#### 4.2. CCAP return to DECC

SDCC completed and submitted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual reporting template of progress on our Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 to the Department of Environment and Climate & Communications. The template tracks the status of each of the 130 actions and provides an update on progress throughout the reporting period. The template includes the performance dashboard.



#### 4.3. Tallaght District Heating Project

Full steam ahead as construction on the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, Ireland’s first large scale district heating project, is officially commenced.

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme is being led by South Dublin County Council. The scheme will also operate as Ireland’s first not-for-profit heat utility and will make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions in the area, with annual saving of almost 1,500 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> in its first phase.

The project, which involves an underground network of highly insulated pipes that transfer low carbon heat from an energy source to buildings that have connected to the system, will provide hot water and space heating. The nearby Amazon data centre will provide the initial source of heat on the network; however, the scheme can accommodate additional, alternative, energy sources over time.

Phase one of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme connects South Dublin County Council's office headquarters and the TU Dublin-Tallaght campus. During normal operation, the heat demand will be fully covered from heat generated at the data centre. The subsequent phases of the project will facilitate the connection of other public, private and residential customers in the Tallaght area including the proposed residential development at Belgard Gardens, which will be home to more than 3,000 people. The system will be operational from Q1, 2022.

South Dublin County Council has secured funding of almost €4.5 million for the Tallaght District Heating Scheme through the Government's Climate Action Fund, as well as support from the Interreg North-West Europe HeatNet NWE project and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.



Figure 4.1 Breaking ground on the Tallaght District heating Scheme

#### 4.4. Decarbonising Zone

Under the National Climate Action Plan 2019, each Local Authority was required to submit to the DHLGH a potential area suitable as a decarbonising zone, (i.e. to implement a range of measures to reduce carbon by a minimum of 51% by 2030). A circular from the DHLGH (LGSM01-2021) requested each LA to submit a proposal by 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

Once decarbonising zones are identified each local authority will be tasked with developing DZ implementation plans by the end of Q4 2021 and those plans should be included in their published Climate Action Plans, as required by the Climate Action Bill, by such date as specified by the Minister for Environment, Communications and Climate.

As the majority of carbon emissions in the county originate from the burning of fossil fuels for home heating, electricity generation and transport we needed to capture a broad mix across sectors including residential, industrial, commercial, municipal and community to enable SDCC develop a range of strategies whilst adhering to the key principle of ‘just transition’.

Having considered the options, it was established that either Clondalkin or Tallaght would emerge as the most viable SDCC Decarbonising Zone. The pros and cons for each option were carefully considered, and finally, it was decided to submit both locations as our proposal.

The next steps include;

- Continue working with our energy agency (CoDEMA) to review the Spatial Energy Demand Analysis;
- Define the DZ boundaries
- Develop a baseline for Carbon emissions
- Identify the key stakeholders
- Identify funding sources
- Identify Carbon reducing measures in each Decarbonising Zone
- Prepare an implementation plan to be submitted to DHLGH and to form part of our Climate Change Action Plan

#### 4.5. Climate Action Week



The inaugural Dublin Climate Action Week (DCAW21) took place from 13th - 19th September 2021. Organised by the four Dublin Local Authorities, the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Dublin's Energy Agency Codema, the week comprised a programme of online and in-person events which aimed to inspire, share knowledge and highlight best practice climate action.

As a founding organisation, South Dublin County Council delivered a range of events looking to showcase our climate action and engage our communities, through the guiding principle of 'taking action together'.

South Dublin County Council is taking a climate leadership role on climate action, however, with less than 1% of the county's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions directly under our control, and as part of national emission targets for 2030, the Council must also inspire and support climate action across society. Our events looked to do this.



Figure 4.2 Official launched of DCAW21

#### 4.5.1. Events in South Dublin

The week began with a sold-out tour of the [Tallaght District Heating Scheme](#) site organised by Codema. The project is currently under construction and when completed will be the first large-scale district heating network of its kind in Ireland. The scheme will make a significant contribution to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in South Dublin, saving up to 1,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year and establishing Tallaght as a leader in innovation in the area of climate change.

This was followed by a live panel discussion outlining progress on our five-year [Climate Change Action Plan](#). Hosted by the Mayor of South Dublin County Council Peter Kavanagh, the discussion focused on the five areas that make up the plan: *Energy & Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions, and Resource Management*. The webinar included a Q&A session with the chairs of each area and can be viewed [here](#).

With citizen engagement high on the agenda during DCAW21, we delivered a Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) information seminar, providing an overview of how to set an SEC up. In partnership with Fingal County Council, we engaged citizens on the vital topic of fast fashion and its detrimental effects on climate, environment, and societies. We also explored biodiversity actions in South Dublin, on a tour of the historic Tymon Park esker, one of the many ongoing projects to protect and restore biodiversity in the county.



Figure 4.3 A Biodiversity Walk in Tymon Park led by South Dublin County Council Heritage Officer Rosaleen Dwyer.

How we manage our resources was also in focus with an in-person event showcasing practical examples of the circular economy. The event featured the Rediscovery Centre, the National Centre for the Circular Economy in Ireland, as they guided citizens through furniture repair, fashion upcycling, and bicycle maintenance. Sustainable Living was also explored through a webinar which offered simple solutions that people can adopt to help them live more sustainably.

South Dublin Comhairle na nÓg debuted their impressive new climate action video and there was a range of climate action events for younger audiences delivered in partnership with South Dublin County Council libraries. The week ended with an inspiring solar-powered, outdoor, zero-waste screening of the climate documentary “2040”, under the moonlight in Rathfarnham Castle Park.



*Figure 4.4 Solar-powered Cinema Screening in Rathfarnham Castle Park*



#### 4.5.2. Reaching Audiences

A focus of DCAW21 for South Dublin County Council was also about reaching members of the public who perhaps were new to climate action, and we looked to make the visibility of events as broad as possible. Examples of this included local press and radio advertising; social media outreach; promotion to local groups including GAA clubs, tidy towns organisations, county chambers of commerce, community groups, and men’s sheds; a promotional event with local soccer club Shamrock Rovers FC; and outreach through The Council’s Social Inclusion Unit database of contacts including the South Dublin Migrant Integration Forum.

We also participated with our regional Dublin partners in a unique promotional event. Pictured below, a largescale sand mural delivered on Portmarnock Beach represented a low impact, environmentally friendly way to engage audiences. Whether in person on the day or filmed from the sky and promoted on social media, the sand mural offered a standout way to capture the imagination and promote the first ever Dublin Climate Action Week.



*Figure 4.5 Low Impact Advertising - DCAW21 from the sky*

#### 4.6. Climate Action Communications Strategy

The Climate Change Team has developed a Communications Strategy to document and promote the Council's numerous actions being carried out through day-to-day work and the Climate Change Action Plan. The Communications strategy will inform elected members and members of the public of ongoing Climate Action related works and upcoming events.

##### 4.6.1. Newsletter

In 2021 SDCC launched its Climate Change Newsletter. The first edition was published in January 2021 focussing on energy. The second edition was published in May and with a focus on Transport.

Our social media hashtag (**#SDCCClimateAction**) is now being used on all South Dublin County Council climate action social media posts.

##### 4.6.2. Website

A SDCC Climate Action website is currently in development. The website will provide citizens direct access to the Climate Change Action Plan and it's actions. The website will provide information and resources to citizens on current Climate Action projects and events. A web design company (PTools) has been engaged to deliver the website and provide training.

#### 4.7. Sustainable Energy Communities



A Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) is a community in which everyone works together to develop a sustainable energy system for the benefit of the community. This is achieved by:

- Being energy efficient
- Using renewable energy where feasible



- Adopting smart technology solutions

The Sustainable Energy Community programme is run by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Ireland's national energy authority. South Dublin County Council is working with Sustineo, the appointed mentor for communities in South Dublin and Codema, Dublin's Energy Agency to facilitate and support homeowners, sports clubs, community centres, local businesses and churches transition to Sustainable Energy Communities.

SDCC has agreed to provide bridging finance to communities to develop their Energy Masterplans. The cost will be recouped from the SEAI.

South Dublin County Council has also committed to providing financial support for sustainable energy projects identified in Energy Masterplans and deemed beneficial to communities under the SDCC Climate Innovation Fund.

### **Benefits**

- Lower Energy Bills
- Make homes and community buildings more comfortable
- Boost local employment opportunities
- Build community energy knowledge, confidence and capacity through experience
- Become a leader in sustainable energy and do your bit for the planet

Further information: <https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/>

Currently there are 8 Sustainable Energy Communities in South Dublin, including groups that have already initiated projects and groups who are at an early stage in developing their objectives.

#### 4.8. Draft Dublin Air Quality Plan

Ireland, as an EU member state is obliged to implement EU Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. In 2019, there was an exceedance of the annual permissible limit value for Nitrogen Dioxide at one air quality monitoring station in Dublin. When this occurs, under legislation, the relevant Local Authorities are obliged to prepare an air quality plan to identify the root causes and to formulate measures to address that exceedance and submit the plan to the EU within two years of the exceedance.

The four Dublin Local Authorities have

prepared a draft Air Quality Plan which is open for public consultation until 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

[Draft Dublin Air Quality Plan | South Dublin County Council's Online Consultation Portal \(sdublincoco.ie\)](https://sdublincoco.ie)

Nitrogen dioxide, is an air pollutant primarily associated with transport emissions, therefore, the purpose of this plan is to address reducing nitrogen dioxide emissions from transport in the Dublin region

South Dublin County Council have collaborated in the WeCount project with UCD, by funding air

quality monitoring equipment at schools in the county, through the Climate Innovation Fund.



The WeCount project empowers citizens to measure road traffic and air pollution in their own neighbourhoods. WeCount is a European citizen engagement project with case studies in six cities: Dublin, Cardiff, Barcelona, Madrid, Leuven, Ljubljana. Citizens and community groups within each city are provided with low-cost sensors that count heavy vehicles, cars, bicycles, pedestrians and air



pollution at the street level. Data collected will be used to provide evidence of the need of sustainable mobility policies around schools, such as the 30km/h speed limit around schools, the School Zone initiative, etc.

<https://we-count.net/networks/dublin>

#### 4.9. Climate Action Awareness Training

Under action 150 of The National Climate Action Plan a Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme is being delivered to all 29,000 Local Authority staff and elected members. The course is split into 3 modules, each 45-90min in duration. The training is mandatory to all staff and aims to increase knowledge, understanding and awareness of global climate change and the context for Ireland, for Local Authorities and for our citizens.

To date training has been made available nationally to all grades 5,6 and 7.

Limerick Institute of Technology have been appointed by the LASNTG to deliver the training programme to elected members and senior staff, including Chief Executives, Directors of Services, Senior Executive Officers, Senior Engineers/Planners and equivalent. Training for SDCC elected members and senior staff has been scheduled for 5th November 2021.

In total, 26 Local authorities will have completed this training by the end of 2021. The remaining five local authorities will be provided with the training in 2022.

## 5.0. CCAP 2019-2024 Action Updates

### 5.1. Energy and Buildings Action Updates

#### **E1: Create energy master plan for the Dublin Region**

**Indicator:** Website with e-Map

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** Dublin Energy Agency, Codema has developed the Dublin Region Energy Master Plan, which includes evidence-based, realistic, and costed pathways for the Dublin region to achieve its carbon emission reduction targets to 2030 and 2050.

Scenario analyses are included for all areas of energy use in the Dublin region and evaluated based on the socio-economic and environmental impacts. The resulting analyses will give local authority and regional level planners, architects, engineers and other policy-makers the tools to create effective, low carbon policies and form strategic decisions to influence the use of energy in Dublin.

The Masterplan focuses on areas where actions can be taken to introduce energy efficiency measures and reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions, such as district energy systems and renewable energy technologies.

The Energy Masterplan builds on the energy areas identified in the Spatial Energy Demand Analyses (SEDAs) for the four Dublin local authority areas, and presents scenarios of actions that could be taken to reduce emissions further.

The project is supported by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) programme.

CoDEMA have included relevant local authority teams involved in the development of the masterplan. This included attendance at workshops in 2021.

Online maps and tools have been produced and are available on CoDEMA's GitHub website.

#### **E2 - Develop public lighting master plan**

**Indicator:** Plan developed, # of lights upgraded

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** Phase 1 of the public lighting upgrade programme (2014-2020) is complete. 9,689 55w SOX lamps were replaced with energy efficient LEDs.

Phase 2 (2020-2014) of the public lighting upgrade programme was initiated in Q4 2020.

A revised schedule of upgrades was presented in Oct 2020. Replacement parts are no longer accessible for equipment predating 1990's.

The target is 1500 upgrades in 2021. 1,265 of these were completed by the end of August 2021 and SDCC are currently on track to achieve the target figure.

### **E.3 - Prepare South Dublin Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan**

**Indicator:** SECAP Complete

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** SDCC's Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan (SECAP) was completed in Q3 of 2019. The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) SECAP is based on the South Dublin CCAP and the South Dublin Baseline Emission Report 2016. The actions, energy and emission baseline inventory, adaptation baseline, and the risks and vulnerability assessments were extracted from the CCAP and uploaded to the CoM SECAP web template. The document was initially accepted, however, as the plans do not address mitigation across the wider county area (outside the LAs' direct remit/control), pre-contacting messages concerning the mitigation pillar and the feedback reports were sent to the 4 DLAs informing them that the SECAPs were deemed not to Meet the new CoM SECAP requirements to address county-wide mitigation targets.

The 2019 South Dublin SECAP overview, Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 and 2016 Baseline Emissions Report can be found on the CoM website:

[https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/about/covenant-community/signatories/overview.html?scity\\_id=15702](https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/about/covenant-community/signatories/overview.html?scity_id=15702)

### **E.4 - Evidence-based Climate Change chapter in County Development Plan 2022-2028**

**Indicator:** Chapter with policies and development management standards

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 is currently being prepared. Stage 2 of the CDP and public consultation process took place between 7<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021. Climate Change will be a fundamental theme running throughout the new CDP. Green Infrastructure and Open Space strategy, Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, Biodiversity Action Plan, SuDS Guidance and Local Authority Electric Vehicle charging guidance and rollout strategy documents have been developed to support the CDP.

CARO have participated in some SDCC County Development Plan discussions in relation to climate action and most recently at a regional level with planners/climate action teams in relation to Draft Guidelines from DHLGH for LAs on City and County Development Plans.

#### **E.5 - Evidence based Climate Change chapter in Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan**

**Indicator:** Climate change chapter in Local Area Plan

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** The elected members of South Dublin County Council resolved to make the Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. The Plan has been in effect since 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2020. Chapter 7 of the Tallaght LAP is dedicated to Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation.

#### **E.6 - Comply with obligations for local authorities under S.I. No. 426/2014**

**Indicator:** Compliant with S.I. No. 426/2014

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Preliminary Energy Audits were completed for SDCC Buildings. Additional, more detailed Energy Audit for County Hall and Clondalkin Offices are required. It is anticipated that these will be part completed as part of SDCC's ISO 50001 certification procedure.

#### **E.7 - Display energy certificates for SDCC's public buildings**

**Indicator:** No. of D.E.C.s for Council buildings

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** In September 2021, Codema published 18 Display Energy Certificates for SDCC buildings over 250m<sup>2</sup> that are frequently visited by members of the public. The certificates were forwarded to each facility with an information booklet about Display Energy Certificates and an outline of energy saving requirements to achieve the next level of energy rating.

#### **E.8 - Annual Monitoring and reporting to SEAI**

**Indicator:** SDCC's energy data uploaded to SEAI M & R system

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Monitoring and reporting to the SEAI was completed for 2020. CoDEMA have provided initial returns to SDCC indicating that Energy Efficiency has improved by 45.7% against the baseline. In 2020, SDCC consumed 39 GWh of primary energy, equivalent to 6,899 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. It is important to acknowledge that this figure is representative of energy consumed during the Covid-19 pandemic, when some office and facility-based services were curtailed.

#### **E.9 - Total emissions in South Dublin updated every two years in accordance with EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy**

**Indicator:** Publication of total emissions in South Dublin

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** Total energy use and emissions are updated every two years for South Dublin County Council and every five years for South Dublin County (in line with the publication of the Census results). The total emissions of South Dublin have been calculated as part of the Dublin Region Energy Masterplan analysis. As part of this project, online maps and tools have also been produced and are available on CoDEMA's GitHub webpage.

#### **E.10 - The Council Energy Review will include a glide path illustrating the energy efficiency and Greenhouse Gas emission targets for the council up to and including 2030**

**Indicator:** Glide path included in review

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** The 2019 South Dublin County Council Energy Review was presented in August 2020. The energy review includes a glide path on Energy Efficiency and GHG emissions, Gap to Target and workplan outlining key projects that will ensure that South Dublin County Council will achieve its Energy Efficiency and Reduced Greenhouse Gas emission targets by 2030. All subsequent energy reviews will include this graph with up-to-date figures.

In 2021, the SEAI published a new Gap-to-Target tool, which allows for the generation of glidepaths for both the 2030 Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse gas emissions targets. This tool has been utilised to develop initial glidepaths for SDCC using current data. The glidepaths will be updated for each future annual Energy Review.

#### **E.11 - Development of yearly Energy Review for SDCC**

**Indicator:** Energy review published, # of recommendations implemented

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** The 2019 South Dublin County Council Energy Review was presented in August 2020. The report highlights that South Dublin County Council achieved a 34.4% improvement in Energy Efficiency in 2019, surpassing its 33% improvement by 2020 target. The review clearly demonstrated where energy is used within the SDCC's significant energy users, what drives their consumption, and where the greatest energy saving potential is. The review also identifies SDCC's currently position in relation to the public sector energy targets, and areas to be addressed to meet these targets between now and 2030. Additionally, the energy review considers the new energy efficiency target of 50% improvement by 2030 and measures available to the council to achieve this.

Initial figures for the 2020 Energy Review have been returned to SDCC. In 2020, SDCC consumed 39 GWh of primary energy, equivalent to 6,899 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and indicating that Energy Efficiency has improved by 45.7% against the baseline.

It should be acknowledged that significant saving that have been achieved through the decarbonisation of the grid, resulting in a favourable change in the primary energy conversion factor since the baseline. A second notable factor is the result of the Covid-19



lockdown on the local authority services the resulting savings in 2020. The SEAI have announced that they will be performing an analysis of the impact of COVID on the Local Authorities energy efficiency during the pandemic.

#### **E.12 - Development of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme**

**Indicator:**# of buildings connected

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** The Tallaght District Heating Scheme is progressing. South Dublin District Heating Company Ltd. has been established and contracts with data-centre and Energy Service Company (ESCo) were signed. Construction on the project was delayed due to Covid-19. Phase one of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, connecting South Dublin County Council's office buildings and the TU Dublin-Tallaght campus commenced in May 2021. The scheme will also operate as Ireland's first not-for-profit utility and will make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions in the area, with annual saving of almost 1,500 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup>. During normal operation, the heat demand will be fully covered from heat generated at the data centre.

Engagement with customers is ongoing with heat supply agreements for Phase 1 customers being finalised in advance of the network being operational.

#### **E.13 - Retrofits of the Council's housing stock**

**Indicator:** # of housing units upgraded

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC has received approval of funding to carry out deep energy retrofit to 117 housing units at a cost of €3.1 Million in 2021. The funding is part of a 10-year program. Retrofits on 117 properties are expected be delivered in 4 lots throughout 2021. Pre BER-Surveys on lots A and B were carried out in May.

The windows and doors replacement programme will include an additional 200 properties in 2021.

#### **E.14 - Energy efficiency works in Council owned and operated buildings**

**Indicator:** # of upgrades carried out

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Energy efficiency works in County Council owned buildings are progressing. Particular reference can be made to the ongoing programme of upgrading office lighting to LED. Other projects include design and development of NZEB and installation of renewable energy systems.

#### **E.15 - Ongoing upgrading of lights in County Hall to LED's**

**Indicator:** # of LEDs installed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Phase 1 of retrofitting LEDs in County Hall has been completed with a calculated annual saving of 37 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Phase 2 of the programme is also completed with calculated reduction in energy consumption of a further 40,189Kwhrs and annual GHG emissions reduction of 13.3 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Phase 3 of the programme is currently underway.

To date an average reduction in consumption of 68% has been achieved and a 53 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been avoided.

Phase 4 of LED Retrofit is being costed for approval. LED retrofit of Council Chamber will be carried out as part of current Audio Visual and Webcasting works in early Q4.

To date SDCC have installed 1025 LED units in County Hall, replacing 1,458 older office lighting units.

#### **E.16 - Energy Performance Contract carried out in Tallaght and Clondalkin Leisure Centres**

**Indicator:** EPC awarded, measurement and verification of savings

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Preliminary research and feasibility study has been carried out. Initial documentation is being prepared.

**E.17 - Replace 4000 SOX lamps with LEDs**

**Indicator:** # of SOX lamps replaced with LEDs

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** Phase 1 of the 55 W SOX replacement programme (2014-2020) has been completed. 9,689 SOX lighting units have been replaced with more efficient LEDs. Phase 2 of the programme commenced in Q4 2020 with an anticipated replacement rate of 1,500 units/annum.

**E.18 - Expand and develop Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) programme**

**Indicator:** Energy and climate change challenges identified for SBIR challenges

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Council is partnering with DCC and Smart Dublin on the delivery of Phase 2 of Smart Mobility Hub. The initiative was developed in association with SBIR and Enterprise Ireland.

**E.19 - 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**

**Indicator:** To Be Confirmed

**Status:** Not Started

**Update:** This action has not commenced yet

**E.20 - Identify sites for trialling renewable energy projects, including solar PV and Geothermal**

**Indicator:** # of sites identified

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Council has identified 58 buildings under its control that may be suitable for renewable energy projects. A list of 13 buildings was submitted to the DCCAE as part of a regional proposal for funding under the Climate Action Fund 2019. The proposal includes installation of solar panels, green roofs and LED lighting upgrades where suitable. South Dublin County Council has also identified the site at the disused Arthurstown Landfill as a potential PV installation. A preliminary report was prepared examining the potential to develop a renewable solar energy project at the site. Recommendations include a 2 phase approach consisting of;

- an initial 75kw project to cover the base load requirements of the leachate treatment plant,
- a subsequent 5MW commercial PV farm developed as a community led project. SDCC are also engaging with the SEAI and CoDEMA to promote the Sustainable Energy Communities scheme, which will support community based sustainable energy projects.

Funding was provided in the 2021 capital works programme for the initial 75kw project and is expected to proceed in 2021. A feasibility study on the larger scale commercial project will also commence in 2021.

South Dublin County Council are continuing to investigate alternative sustainable energy sources in the county, including the potential of geothermal installations to support the district heating project.

**E.21 - The Council will investigate the Lifecycle Assessment of traditional and new construction methods for residential projects in Dublin**

**Indicator:** To Be Confirmed

**Status:** Not Started

**Update:** This action has not commenced yet

**E.22 - 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.**

**Indicator:** # of projects with provision of Swift Bricks

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Council's Architectural Services department has installed boxes and roosting sites for bats, birds of prey and smaller garden birds on several building conservation projects. Additional sites will be assessed as projects come progress.

### **E.23 - Monitor and develop the Home Energy Savings Kit scheme in SDCC libraries**

**Indicator:** # of kits in branches, borrowing rates in libraries

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC have 6 Home Energy Saving Kits located in the Tallaght Library, Clondalkin (Old Library), Ballyroan Library and Lucan Library. The Home Energy Saving Kit scheme is continuing to operate successfully in South Dublin's libraries. South Dublin County Council has recently been in discussion with CoDEMA to develop additional kits, to include the new library in Clondalkin. Although the libraries were closed for a significant proportion of the Covid-19 pandemic, SDCC and CoDEMA continued to provide energy saving resources and social media content to maintain interest in the Home Energy Saving Kit scheme.

### **E.24 - Assess feasibility of additional low carbon district heating networks: Clonburris and Grange Castle**

**Indicator:** Study Completed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC have established a special purpose vehicle 'Heat Works' to advance the District Heating Programme. Works on the Tallaght District Heating Scheme commenced in May 2021 with installation of pipe network in TUD and Belgard Road.

The Regional Energy Masterplan identifies Grange Castle and Clonburris as areas with significant opportunities in terms of District Heating Networks. Additional feasibility studies will be required in order to fully ascertain the viability of this network. SDCC have tendered for a local energy masterplan to be undertaken in this area.

**E.25 - Expand Housing Assistance Programme (HAP) to include tenant energy awareness**

**Indicator:** # of tenants provided with energy saving tips

**Status:** Not Started

**Update:** This action has not commenced yet

**E.26 - Develop maintenance and condition survey programmes for Council owned historic and ancient monuments that are informed by climate change impacts**

**Indicator:** # of monuments surveyed, # of maintenance programmes implemented

**Status:** Not Started

**Update:** This action has not commenced yet

**E.27 - Conduct research and seek to develop Council based case studies on appropriate and sensitive retrofitting / energy upgrading of traditional buildings to inform works both to Council owned properties and to guide private owners.**

**Indicator:** # of case studies

**Status:** Not Started

**Update:** This action has not commenced yet

5.2. Transport Action Updates

**T.1 - Implement transport energy management system**

**Indicator:** System implemented

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** SDCC have implemented a fuel management system to monitor fuel consumption associated with fleet. GPS monitoring also provides information relating to vehicle activity. SDCC have also initiated an Eco Driver training programme, to educate drivers on fuel management techniques which reduce emissions and improve road safety. SDCC have

engaged Energy Elephant to develop an energy portal as a pilot scheme to monitor and report on energy and fuel consumption across the organisation. When fully engaged and incorporated, the system will monitor and report on energy use in buildings, facilities and public lighting, fuel consumption for heating buildings and fuel use for transportation.

**T.2 – Ongoing replacement of Council vehicles with more energy-efficient alternatives, including EVs**

**Indicator:** # of vehicles replaced

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC have included 5 Electric Vans in its municipal fleet. Programme of fleet replacement is under review with the recently appointed fleet manager. EV alternatives will be considered for all replacements. Additional Electric Vehicles were procured as a pilot under the LIFE DURL project.

**T.3 - Use mobile canteens with operational crews**

**Indicator:** # of canteens trialled

**Status:** Postponed

**Update:** Mobile Canteen have been trialled on a pilot scheme. The trial has been suspended due to Covid-19 SD restrictions. The programme is under review

**T.4 - Promotion of Cycle-to-Work Scheme to Council staff**

**Indicator:** # of staff availing of scheme

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC encourage staff to participate in the Cycle to Work Scheme. Promotional events held throughout the year including during Bike Week. In 2020, 31 members of staff availed of the scheme.

**T.5 - Strengthen traditional villages by improving the public realm through enhancement of green infrastructure and sustainable transport linkages**

**Indicator:** # of village improvement schemes

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC is working to strengthen traditional villages through improvements to the public realm and enhancement of green infrastructure and sustainable transport links. In 2021 the Templeogue Village Renewal Scheme commenced on site. Works include upgraded cycleways, pedestrian facilities, off-street carparking, EV charging infrastructure, surface water attenuation, and tree pits. A pedestrian and dismounted cyclist link shall be provided from the village centre to Riverside Cottages to the Dodder Greenway.

The District Centre Enhancement Programme aims to improve local business/shopping centres within communities. A key objective is to improve the green credentials of the district centres and will include increased planting, provision of green spaces, water refill stations, recycling facilities, EV charging points and improvements to street furniture to promote cycling and walking.’ Under this programme SDCC is preparing documents for a Part 8 application for the proposed scheme in Castletymon Shopping Centre. A number of surveys as well as preliminary design work has now been completed. Similar work will be initiated in 2022 for Rosemount shopping Centre. 2 additional schemes (Neilstown Shopping Centre and Bawnogue Shopping Centre) have been approved at Area Committee Meetings for commencement.

#### **T.6 - Regular maintenance of regional and local roads**

**Indicator:** # of complaints regarding obstructions, blocked gullies, etc.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** This action continues on annual programme. Contractors are engaged to sweep 890km of roadway and clean 4,000 gullies each month. To date, in 2021, 8,429km of roadway have been swept in South Dublin

#### **T.7 - The Council will undertake an assessment of the number of existing and potential future Electric Vehicle Charge points in its jurisdiction**

**Indicator:** Assessment completed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC, in collaboration with the other DLAs has commissioned a report and strategy for the rollout of Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure across the Dublin region to ensure



that a uniform approach is adopted when considering suitable locations; to match the needs of our communities, to ensure adequate facilities to keep ahead of the demand and equipment that will be compatible with existing technology and back-office software. Element Energy were engaged to develop a report and strategy. The report will also be a key document for defining planning policy for future EV charging infrastructure developments. It will present a range of alternatives to each LA with respect to commercial options and potential partnerships with recommendations on pricing strategies that are in line with the existing market.

The Regional EV Steering group and Element Energy are currently developing a stakeholder engagement strategy to augment the Regional EV charging strategy.

**T.8 - Improve road safety at schools with additional school wardens**

**Indicator:** # of school wardens

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Council currently employs 94 permanent school wardens and 20 temporary relief wardens. There are 92 crossings in operation and there are no current plans to expand this number. The SDCC Road Safety Officer liaises with schools across the county and provides additional road safety measures including cycle safety training for students. SDCC has also successfully developed Cycle Bus schemes for primary schools. The Road Safety Officer is currently working with 4 schools to develop a School Street pilot project in South Dublin. Procurement procedures are underway to appoint consultants to undertake preliminary surveys work at 3 of the 4 schools.

**T.9 - Organised walks to promote healthy lifestyles, i.e. Clondalkin Route**

**Indicator:** # of walks organised, # of people participating

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Sports Partnership organise and promote activities and events around the county. The following marked routes are listed on the SDCSP website;

- Paths in Tymon Park
- Slí na Slainte walk in Tymon

- Sean Walsh Park Summer Walk Route map
- Waterstown Park Palmerstown Summer Walk Route map
- St. Cuthbert's Park Walk Route
- Killinarden Park Summer Walk Route
- Collinstown Park Summer Walk Route
- Rathcoole Park Summer Walk Route
- Ballyowen Park Lucan Summer Walk Route

Marchathon and Monthly Challenges are also organised through the South Dublin County Sports Partnership.

SDCC has installed drinking water fountains along popular routes to encourage and support active travel.

A Biodiversity walk through Tymon Park for members of the public was arranged during Dublin Climate Action Week. The SDCC heritage Officer led a group around the Tymon Park esker to explore the multitude of biodiversity on our doorstep.

#### **T.10 - Develop cycle network strategy**

**Indicator:** Strategy developed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** As part of SDCC's commitment to making the County a national leader in providing a quality network of routes for cyclists, the Cycle South Dublin Plan is currently in development. The plan provides comprehensive guidance for the planning, construction and upgrading of cycle tracks and junctions for all vulnerable road users. The plan identifies existing cycle routes and future strategic links it 263km of infrastructure to promote active travel options for both leisure and commuter users.

The informal consultation was completed on 18.12.20, there were two webinars and a social media campaign supporting the consultation. Over 430 submissions resulting in 1550 submission comments were received on for the Cycle South Dublin Programme. Cycle South Dublin has been adopted into Policy

#### **T.11 -Development of cycle/pedestrian greenways**

**Indicator:** # of cycle / pedestrian greenway paths added

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC has committed to making the County a national leader in providing a quality network of cycle routes. The following County cycle network schemes currently under construction will provide important strategic links for cyclists;

- Dodder Greenway - 10km from Bohernabreena to the Grand Canal Dock, including the construction of three bridges at Bolbrook Centre, Kilvere bridge and Bushy Park bridge.
- Belgard Square North to Cookstown Link Road.

## **T.12 - Build out County Cycle Network**

**Indicator:** # of kms of cycle routes added

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** The following cycle/pedestrian routes are being progressed through planning or construction stages in 2021;

**Dodder Greenway Section 1 - Kiltipper Park** - Section of the Dodder Cycle Route through Kiltipper Park, Tallaght. Construction phase. The project is complete with the exception of the public parking area adjacent to the care home.

**Dodder Greenway Section 2 – Bridges** – Construction phase. The SDCC section of the project is substantially complete. Final snags to issue substantial completion for the DCC elements.

**N81 cycling, walking and bus facilities (Jobstown Junction)** - Construction phase – Construction is progressing and is now approximately 70% complete.

Stage 5, 6 and 7 to be progressed and finished. - Stages 8, 9 and 10 (Jobstown House site south of N81) are scheduled to commence.

**Monastery Road** - Improvements for pedestrians and cyclist connectivity between the Luas Park & Ride at the Red Cow Roundabout to and from Clondalkin Village, including junction improvements, signalised pedestrian crossings, and upgrades to current cycle track/walkway – Construction phase - Work is now complete and a certificate of substantial

completion was issued in August. Outstanding works include tree and shrub planting which will be carried out in Q.4.

**Spawell to Perrystown Cycle Route (Wellington Lane)** - Temporary scheme to install cycle and pedestrian facilities on Wellington Lane, Templeogue including revised crossing arrangements at Orwell Road and Templeville Road Roundabouts. Permanent scheme will progress to planning stage in 2021 following a temporary scheme at preliminary design phase.

**Canal Loop Greenway** - Greenway project to link the proposed Grand and Royal Canal Greenways via Adamstown and Lucan is currently at Concept and Options phase, A tender has been issued for a consultant for subsequent phases.

**N81 Transport Strategy** - Integrated Transport Strategy for N81 (Tallaght) to provide safe access to and across the N81 and to manage traffic speeds and volumes along the N81, insofar as reasonable, to increase the perception of safety among vulnerable road users.

### **Grange Road Phase 2**

Cycle and traffic management scheme on Grange Road, Rathfarnham from Nutgrove Avenue to St. Enda's Drive

Phase 1 Barton Drive to Aranleigh Mount – Underground services, kerbing and footpaths

Phase 8 Convent Lane to Loreto Terrace - Kerbing and footpaths.

Phase 5 Dispensary Lane to Loreto Terrace - Kerbing and footpaths

Phase 10 + 9 Convent lane - Dispensary Lane - Kerbing and footpaths

**Dodder Greenway Section 3 - Paths and Green Spaces** - Section 3 of the Dodder Cycle Route through Dodder Parklands in Tallaght/Templeogue is in Construction phase. Excavation and capping underway, drainage underway.

**Dodder Greenway Section 4 - Springfield Ave. & Lower Dodder Road** - Section 4 of the Dodder Cycle Route - On-road section between Rathfarnham and SDCC/DLR Boundary (Ely's

Arch) – Planning and Approval stage. Part 8 drawings have been amended to include segregated ped and cycling.

**Dodder Greenway Section 5 - Firhouse Rd. & Butterfield Ave** - Section 5 of the Dodder Cycle Route - On-road section along Firhouse Road and Butterfield Avenue. Planning and Approval stage. Draft Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) received from CSEA for Blue Haven junction. Preliminary design for Wellington and Firhouse junctions circulated to SDCC and NTA. MCA's for Blue Haven and Wellington reports are being combined. High level layout of emerging preferred for both junctions has been circulated for comment. Issue combined MCA. Commence prep for public consultation process. Q1 2022

**Dodder Greenway Section 6 - Kiltipper Rd & Old Bawn Road** - Section 6 of the Dodder Cycle Route - On-road section from Kiltipper Road to Old Bawn Road  
Permeability options are being reviewed.

**Tallaght to Knocklyon** - Cycle route connecting Tallaght to Knocklyon via Old Bawn Road, Firhouse Rd & M50 Knocklyon Footbridge. Concept and options phase. Consultant tender issued, Environmental reports/screenings commissioned, Topographical surveyor tender to be issued and Consultant to be appointed, Existing Part 8 for Old Bawn RD to be reviewed for suitability, Detailed Design for Firhouse Road Schemes to be prepared.

**N4 to Ronanstown** - Traffic management and cycle scheme on Fonthill Road from the N4 to Thomas Omar Way. Concept and Options Phase. Concept design has been agreed. Project currently awaiting appointment of design team.

**School Streets** - Implementation of school streets at four schools in SDCC area. Concept and Options Phase. Tenders have been received and assessed for the technical consultants tender.

**District Centre Enhancement Programme (Castletymon)** - Provision of improved walking and cycling facilities and traffic management at Castletymon District Centre. Preliminary Design phase

**D12 Bike Bus Route - Light Segregation Scheme** - Improved cycle provision (via light segregation or revised traffic management arrangements) along the D12 Bike Bus Route between Crumlin and Tymon. Concept and Options phase.

**Templeville Road - Light Segregation Scheme** - Protection of existing cycle lanes along Templeville Rd (Limekiln Lane to Dodder Greenway) - Drawings for scheme being produced.

**Castletymon Road - Light Segregation Scheme** - Light segregation cycle scheme on Castletymon Rd. Concept and Options phase.

**Fortunestown Lane - Light Segregation Scheme** - Protection of existing cycle lanes on Fortunestown Rd, Saggart. Close Out and Review, Project complete Monitor

**Cycle Parking** - Provision of cycle parking in SDCC area. Preliminary design phase. SDCC are finalising tender documents for delivery and installation of Bicycle parking.

**Permeability Schemes (Balgaddy / Esker)** - Permeability links to schools in Balgaddy & Esker, Lucan. Scope and Purpose phase.

**Cycle South Dublin Website and Promotion** - Cycle South Dublin Website and Promotion. Preliminary design phase. Designer appointed for the active travel website

**Asset Renewal (Pedestrian and Cycle Facilities)** Refurbishment of existing footpaths and cycle tracks in SDCC area. Design and tender phase

**Safe to Schools Programme - Support Infrastructure** - Provision of infrastructure under the Safe to School programme (scheme locations and details to be confirmed). Scope and

purpose phase Explore potential for Safer to School to be incorporated into existing projects i.e. Wellington Lane and D12 Bike Bus.

All schemes under construction were temporarily suspended due to the Covid 19 pandemic. New schemes are currently being progressed. Over €20M was received in allocations for SDCC schemes in 2021.

#### **T.13 - Increase number of public bicycle facilities**

**Indicator:** # of bicycle facilities added

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Safe secure lockable bicycle parking units have been installed by SDCC at Tallaght Civic Theatre and Grange Road, Clondalkin. Additional units to be installed at SDCC offices at Tallaght and Clondalkin.

Provision of additional bicycle storage lockers was suspended due to Covid-19.

SDCC received an allocation of €200,000 from the NTA to install bicycle parking countywide facilitating clubs, schools etc.

#### **T.14 - Extend public bicycle scheme**

**Indicator:** # of bicycles available in County

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Bleeper Bike ran a pilot project in South Dublin. The project was suspended after the pilot as a model was deemed not to be commercially viable. SDCC have engaged with Bleeper Bike to develop the Smart Mobility Hub to promote sustainable transport alternatives for staff at County Hall and Clondalkin offices. Discussions are ongoing with interested groups to partner on the provision of bicycle sharing schemes and micro mobility. For review in 2022 after updated national legislation on micro-mobility.

#### **T.15 - SDCC will continue to seek new and expand on existing partnerships to encourage sustainable travel for safer travel behaviours.**

**Indicator:** # of new and expanded partnerships

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC Smart mobility hub is progressing. SDCC have engaged with DCC, FCC, UCD, Good Travel Software and Enterprise Ireland to set up the Smart mobility Hub. SDCC have agreed to take 1 Electric Car and 2 e-bikes as a pilot project. Charging points for e-bikes have been installed at County Hall.

**T.16 - SDCC will establish a portal dedicated to communication and promotion of active travel within existing platforms**

**Indicator:** Portal launched

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC have received €50,000 in funding for an Active Travel website from the NTA. A specialist contractor has been appointed to design and develop a web portal. Initial development and scoping meetings have been held and a series of workshop will be progressed in Q.4 2021. It is anticipated that the portal will go live in early 2022.

**T.17 - 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.**

**Indicator:** # of citizens engaged

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC LUPT Department is undertaking Sustainable Movement Studies with the support of the NTA. The aim is to develop an overview of mobility issues across each of the 7 Neighbourhood Areas with a view to informing the County Development Plan policies and objectives in relation to transport.

The transport section of the Development Plan will seek to reduce unnecessary car use; promote walking, cycling and public transport use; establish greater permeable connections and create safe, quality and vibrant pathways to move along; and address the challenges of areas that are not currently served by public transport. The aim is to achieve measurable and achievable objectives through targets for modal shift and reduction of emissions. Arising from the Sustainable Mobility studies, a pilot project will be identified in each Neighbourhood Area that will be a potential catalyst for change in terms of the shift to active travel modes and public transport.



The Draft County DP was on public display for comment and submissions from the public and interested parties between 7th July and 15th September. The Draft Plan includes modal share targets and details of key obstacles to reaching our targets and solutions to overcome these within each neighbourhood area.

#### **T.18 - Facilitate the delivery of public transport routes**

**Indicator:** # of kms of route added

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Each of the DLA's made submissions to the NTA on the BUS Connects Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) process. Issues raised included loss of mature trees, generation of noise and dust, loss of green space and concerns for ecologically sensitive areas. Detailed junction design is progressing for each of the Bus corridors. The priority at each junction will favour Public Transport, pedestrian and cycling movements. Additional junction improvements to protect vulnerable users will be included. Detail design of the cycle overpass at the Hamburger junction is progressing. A series of online informal public consultation were held via Zoom meetings. These consultations were well attended by members of the public, local interest groups, cycling groups and the elected members.

#### **T.19 - Cycle training programme for 6th Class students/pedal power labs**

**Indicator:** # of students participating

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Cycle Right Training was provided at 11 schools across the county, 631 students participated.

- Loreto Girls Rathfarnham (58),
- St. Colmcille's Knocklyon (84),
- St. Damien's Walkinstown (28),
- Lucan East ETNS (63),
- Scoil Maelruan (124),
- St. Killian's Tallaght (72),
- Scoil Mhuire Ballyboden (27),

- Ballyroan Boys NS (60),
- Rathfarnham Parish NS (29),
- Gael Scoil Lucan (58),
- St. Rose's Tallaght (28)

#### **T.20 - Pilot VMS on Naas Road**

**Indicator:** Pilot established

**Status:** Not Started

**Update:** This action has not commenced yet

#### **T.21 - Expand availability of EV charging points and other facilities for non-fossil fuelled powered vehicles in the County**

**Indicator:** # of charging points in the County

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** The existing public EV charging infrastructure across South Dublin is operated on a commercial basis by ESB and a few private companies. There are currently 33 charging points available to the public at 15 locations, with plans to install additional points around the county. SDCC is working to ensure that new developments including carparking facilities such as Kiltipper Park and leisure facilities will be equipped with EV charging points. SDCC plan to progress the roll out of EV charging facilities in accordance with the recommendations of the Draft Regional EV Charging Strategy (produced by the 4 DLA's, CARO and Smart Dublin).

The draft strategy is currently in a stakeholder engagement phase to inform the location of potential EVCPs by LAs in the Dublin Region. Additionally, the CCMA Electric Vehicle Working Group have recently published the Local Authority Electrification of Fleet and EV Charging Document. The Group included representatives from the Department of Transport, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, SEAI, ESB Networks, CARO, local authorities and others. The guidance provides useful information sources and recommendations when considering projects in this area.

<https://www.lgma.ie/en/publications/general-publications/local-authority-electrification-of-fleet-and-ev-charging-guidance.pdf>

### 5.3. Flood Resilience Action Updates

#### **F.1 - Transpose national Legislation and regulation on Climate Change adaptation and flood management into SDCC development guidelines**

**Indicator:** Guidelines Produced

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** National Legislation and regulation on Climate Change adaptation and flood management is being transposed into SDCC policy and guidelines, including Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works and the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Strategy (GSDS). SDCC have engaged McCloy Consultants for the production of a SuDS guidance document and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform policy and to support the development of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. A series of workshops were arranged to allow input from SDCC staff. McCloy Consulting produced a Scoping Report and Literature review on similar SuDS evaluation and guidance. Suite of SuDS guidance documents and associated literature to be presented to SDCC in Q.4, 2021.

#### **F.2 - Implement Flood Risk Management Guidelines**

**Indicator:** # of projects following guidelines

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Implementation of the FRM guidelines is ongoing through the planning process as new applications are received. The process currently encourages the use of SuDS in new developments and will be further supported by the SuDS Guidance documents.

#### **F.3 - Cross-boundary flood management with neighbouring local authorities**

**Indicator:** Quarterly meetings with neighbouring Local Authorities

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC have cross boundary collaborations on Flood Alleviation Schemes with Dublin City Council. SDCC are project leaders on the Poddle FAS, DCC lead on the Camac FAS. Telemetry is currently in place at two locations in the Poddle in South Dublin. Discussions with DCC are ongoing to increase the number of telemetry units as part of the Poddle FAS. It is planned to include additional telemetry on the Whitechurch Stream if

proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme proceeds. SDCC shares a cross boundary platform for weather and flood warning and management.

#### **F.4 - Flood event emergency plans**

**Indicator:** Plans completed and updated yearly

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** The Severe Weather Sub-Plan 2021 is currently in draft form awaiting final approval. Flood Emergency Plan will reflect new protocols in the updated SWP.

#### **F.5 - Support the development of flood forecasting and warning system**

**Indicator:** System developed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** The Flood forecasting service has been set up within Met Eireann. To support and input into developing this service, each local authority has appointed a Severe Weather and Flood Liaison Manager (SWFLM). SWFLM training programme will proceed in Q.4, 2021. Met Éireann will run a non-operational trial of the Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) in Q4 of 2021. Daily forecast, Flood Alerts and Flood Advisories will be sent to Local Authorities.

#### **F.6 - Implement and demonstrate SuDS guidelines in own buildings and Land, SDZs and LAPs**

**Indicator:** Case studies completed and reports prepared

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC have engaged consultants to develop SuDS guidance documents and training. Current SuDS guidance is taken from the GDSDS and CIRIA SuDS documents. SDCC have installed SuDS projects in Kiltipper Park. The recently commenced development at Kilcarbery Strategic Development Zone to construct 1,000 homes will include significant SuDS measures. The proposed development at Clonburriss SDZ will be also include SuDS measures.

The Tallaght LAP also includes SuDS requirements in Chapter 7.

**F.7 - Undertake strategic flood risk assessment of all LAPs, SDZs and Development Plans**

**Indicator:** Assessment Complete

**Status:** Complete

**Update:** Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been completed for the Draft County Development Plan 2022-2028.

**F.8 - Tree planting for water attenuation**

**Indicator:** # of trees planted

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** A Landscaping plan has been compiled for Poddle FAS in conjunction with Public Realm.

**F.9 - Develop demonstration sites to show how to combine SuDS/flood attenuation systems with existing land uses**

**Indicator:** # of demonstration sites developed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Water Services / Drainage have set up a team to identify suitable locations for demonstration SuDS projects. The team have identified several locations with surface water drainage issues and are currently developing design options and preliminary cost estimates.

Solutions under consideration include permeable asphalt, tree pits, rain gardens and swales. Consultants developing SuDS guidance have provided advice. Ground investigations are required prior to progressing to a detailed design.

Additional SuDS demonstration projects have been funded under the Climate Innovation Fund including permeable paving at Lucan Demesne and Tymon Park swale.

**F.10 - Protect and conserve floodplains, wetlands, rivers and watercourses subject to flooding**

**Indicator:** Map of vulnerable areas and species habitats

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Geohydromorphological Assessment was completed by Roughan O'Donovan to support the County Development Plan 2022-2028. Included in the Risk Assessment is a review of riparian zones with definitions, mapping and objectives are included within the written statement. The policy requires hydro morphological assessments where proposed development lands are wholly or partly within riparian corridors. A strategy is being developed for the sequential removal of culverts along watercourse routes and allowing adjacent land areas to flood water while minimising the risk of flooding to properties. The project is being carried out in cooperation with neighbouring LAs to ensure that the removal of restricting structure is done in sequence.

#### **F.11 - Integrated constructed wetlands for water attenuation and purification**

**Indicator:** # of wetlands created

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Four ICWs have received Part 8 consent and a Design & Build contract has gone to tender. The ICW for the Poddle FAS is currently with An Bord Pleanala.

#### **F.12 - Develop a Climate Change impact GIS risk map with scenarios for the Dublin Region**

**Indicator:** GIS Map Developed

**Status:** Not Started

**Update:** This action has not commenced as yet.

#### **F.13 - Develop template to capture impacts, response and costs (including ecosystem services/natural capital costs) for all major climate events**

**Indicator:** Template developed and issued

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC were involved in early trials of the WIRE (Weather Impact Register) app. The online Map Viewer and Data Dashboard has spatial analysis and reporting functionality was developed to assist climate adaptation planning. Several upgrades and modifications have been made to the system following the feedback from these pilots and to facilitate the rollout across the 31 local authorities. This upgrading work has now been completed and it

is proposed to commence rolling out the system across the sector commencing in October the Atlantic Seaboard North Region before being rolled out nationally through the 4 CAROs in 2022. The app being developed by the CARO Atlantic. CARO Atlantic are modifying the app following feedback from LA's on the beta test. Rollout to all LA's expected in 2021. WIRE app beta version remains accessible to LA staff.

**F.14 - Update DLA (Dublin Local Authorities) urban drainage and flooding policies for current knowledge of flood risk and the latest best practice in drainage design, promoting natural flood measures as a priority.**

**Indicator:** Policies updated

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SuDS Guidance has started sectional meetings within local Authority to determine main issue to be resolved when preparing SuDS Guidance Document. Additional workshops are scheduled, and a final report will be presented in Nov/Dec 2021.

**F.15 - Establish a Working Group to deal with the issue of pluvial flood risk. This shall include;**

- How to manage Urban Creep and the increase in impermeable surfaces
- Promotion of SUDs early in design process
- Development of pluvial flood forecasting through use of point rainfall forecasting

**Indicator:** Working group established

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Working group has been established.

**F.16 - Risk workshops to assess impacts on Council services**

**Indicator:** Risks identified

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** This action is ongoing through the Winter Planning Process

**F.17 - Whitechurch Flood Alleviation Scheme****Indicator:** Project completed**Status:** Ongoing**Update:** Permission was granted on the Whitechurch Flood Alleviation Scheme by An Bord Pleanala in December 2020. Leave for Judicial Review granted to the Ballyboden Tidy Towns Group. October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 confirmed for Judicial Review.**F.18- Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme****Indicator:** Project completed**Status:** Ongoing**Update:** An Bord Pleanala have deferred their decision date to 24th November. Tender for CCTV survey in Perrystown has been completed and a contractor is being appointed.**F.19 - River Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme****Indicator:** Project completed**Status:** Ongoing**Update:** The project is at Stage 1 Preliminary Design. CCTV surveying of culverts and Hydraulic Modelling almost complete. Final River Geohydromorphological Report was presented to the Steering Group and will be used in developing optioneering.**F.20 - Minor flood schemes and general maintenance that are designed and implemented to promote nature-based solutions where practical.****Indicator:** # of projects completed**Status:** Ongoing**Update:** Removal of debris completed on the Tallaght Stream and Camac.  
Progressing design on Oldcourt stream outfall gabion reinforcement.  
Works progressing on cleaning Ballycragh and Ballymount Lakes.**F.21 - Communication and awareness campaigns on flood risk management and natural flood management measures**



**Indicator:** # of households reached

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Flood Alleviation Schemes Communications are on-going. A virtual public event held for the Camac FAS was held in April 2021. The web sites for all three Flood Alleviation Schemes ([poddlefas.ie](http://poddlefas.ie) , [camacfas.ie](http://camacfas.ie) and [whitechurchfas.ie](http://whitechurchfas.ie)) are regularly updated. A public information event on the Flood risk management works was held during Dublin Climate Action Week 2021.

**F.22 - Promote and encourage community involvement in the retrofit of SuDs in existing developments**

**Indicator:** # of communities involved

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** The SDCC SuDS guidance documents will inform and support individuals and communities on the implementation of SuDS at a local level.

## 5.4. Nature Based Solutions Action Updates

### **N.1 - Establish regional working group to identify areas and priorities for action**

**Indicator:** Working Group Established

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC has initiated contact with neighbouring LAs to establish a Regional Working Group to identify new actions and priorities. Working group will include members from 4 DLAs. SDCC to prepare terms of reference for the group.

### **N.2 - Establish a cross departmental SuDS Working Group to promote and pilot water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) incorporating urban tree planting**

**Indicator:** Working Group Established, # of urban tree pits used as attenuation systems

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** A SuDS Working Group has been established and is currently progressing the development of guideline for SuDS. Guidelines for SuDS will include advice on using tree pits for water attenuation. SuDS working group have received the Scoping Doc from McCloy Consulting.

### **N.3 - Workshop to develop Dublin Risk Assessment for nature and Climate Change**

**Indicator:** Workshop conducted, assessment developed

**Status:** Not Started

**Update:** This action has not commenced as yet. Will be included in Regional Working Group to identify areas and priorities for action.

### **N.4 - Workshop on NBS, green infrastructure and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)**

**Indicator:** Workshop undertaken, report of outcomes

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** A series of workshops on Nature Based Solutions and SuDS has been included in the scope of the services to be delivered by the SuDS Guidelines Consultant. GI and NBS will have separate workshop.

**N.5 - Produce regional floodplain management guidelines**

**Indicator:** Guidelines produced

**Status:** Not Started

**Update:** This action has not commenced as yet. Will be included in Regional Working Group to identify areas and priorities for action.

**N.6 - Finalise Draft Biodiversity Action Plan**

**Indicator:** Plan published

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** Biodiversity Action Plan was adopted by the elected members of SDCC at the November 2020 Council Meeting. Implementation of the plan is progressing.

**N.7 - Develop Green Infrastructure Strategy that identifies areas and priorities for green infrastructure and investment**

**Indicator:** Strategy Developed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Green Infrastructure Strategy is currently in development. A team of consultants have been appointed to complete the GI strategy. GI Strategy will be developed in tandem with the review of the County Development Plan.

**N.8 - Develop Public Open Space and Parks Strategy that incorporates climate change mitigation and adaptation**

**Indicator:** Strategy Developed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Parks and Open Space Strategy is currently in development. A team of consultants have been appointed to complete the POS strategy. POS Strategy will be developed in tandem with the review of the County Development Plan.

**N.9 - Incorporate natural play space into existing parks for recreation and as SuDS**

**Indicator:** # of spaces developed

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** The programme to incorporate natural play areas into existing parks has been completed. Policies in Draft CDP will support developers installing natural play spaces. Ongoing meetings with other LAs to mentor and share knowledge. SDCC are progressing works on Teen Space programme.

**N.10 - Implement policies in the development plan avoiding artificial underground storage of water where possible in favour of nature-based solutions**

**Indicator:** Reduction in the number of artificial attenuation systems as a % of developments

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Section 7.2 of SDCC County Development Plan (2016-2022) deals with the management of surface and groundwater. IE2 Objective 5 aims to limit surface water run-off from new developments through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems and avoid the use of underground attenuation and storage tanks. Applications made through the planning process are individually assessed and sustainable drainage systems are conditioned where possible. SDCC meet developers at pre planning consultations to discuss surface water management. SDCC promote natural drainage solutions and overground water attenuation to support increased biodiversity value, public amenity and water quality. SuDS guidance will provide support.

Policies in the draft CDP 2022-2028 aim to continue existing objectives limiting the use of underground storage systems and to use natural SuDS to attenuate surface water.

**N.11 - Develop a hedgerow plan for the County, with actions to map, protect and develop hedgerows county-wide**

**Indicator:** Map produced, # of Hedgerows maintained and added

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** The development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy will include canopy level tree and hedgerow mapping. A Pilot hedgerow survey in Tymon was carried out. The data gathered will help establish recommendations for the appropriate management of these into the future. The data, in conjunction with data from the pollinator meadow surveys will also form the basis for the calculation of carbon sequestration capacity in Tymon Park.

**N.12 - Develop urban woodland management strategy and action plan**

**Indicator:** Plan produced

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Review of South Dublin County Council Tree Management Strategy 'Living With Trees' has completed the public consultation stage.

**N.13 - Implement tree management policy**

**Indicator:** Annual programme of tree maintenance implemented

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Public consultation for Tree Management Policy is closed. SDCC received 51 submissions. A report is being prepared for presentation to the SPC subgroup.

**N.14 - Increase tree canopy cover in the County through annual planting and maintenance**

**Indicator:** % increase in tree canopy cover

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** A tree planting target for 2021 of 2,500 trees was agreed. Tree planting was curtailed due to Covid-19 restrictions. Outstanding 2020 tree planting will be completed along with winter 2021 planting programme.

**N.15 - Develop coordinated regional planning approach to prevent the removal of healthy, established trees.**

**Indicator:** Protocols agreed and implemented, % annual reduction in tree removal by local authorities

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** For regional meeting agenda. This item will be included in TOR for regional NBS meetings. (N.1)

**N.16 - Measure and maintain species diversity in urban tree population**

**Indicator:** Reduction in diseases attacking trees

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Surveying of trees is continuing - over 32,000 trees have been surveyed. Tree planting will include same species on streets rather than whole estate to ensure diversity. Tree surveying by Arbortrack was curtailed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**N.17 - Develop and promote establishment of tree trails in public parks across the County**

**Indicator:** # of trails established

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Tree trails have been established in South Dublin;

- Ogham Tree Trail at Dodder Valley Park,
- Sean Walsh Park

Additional tree trail developed in Firhouse/Woodlawn Park under the Have Your Say programme. A Nature trail was installed in Dodder Valley Park. Signs for tree trail at Woodlawn Park to be installed September 2021.

**N.18 - Develop demonstration projects for successful planting and establishment of trees in urban hardscapes**

**Indicator:** Pilot area identified and trial solutions designed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Tree planting using tree pits planned for St Joseph's Road. Covid-19 restrictions have delayed works. Works in Templeogue have been delayed due to Covid-19. Tree planting using tree pits on St Joseph's Road is complete.

**N.19 - Provide opportunities for community engagement, involvement and activities to raise awareness**

**Indicator:** # of events

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC Environmental Awareness Officer continues to work with the Comhairle na nÓg on climate focussed project in 2021. A full programme of community engagement events was delivered during Dublin Climate Action Week (13th - 20th September).

**N.20 - Review and climate-proof Biodiversity Action Plan, Invasive Alien Species Plan, and Tree Management Policy**

**Indicator:** Complete review for climate relevant actions carried out and amended accordingly

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC Biodiversity Action Plan has been reviewed and climate-proofed. Invasive alien species will be mapped and a management plan will be developed as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan. SDCC Tree management strategy is currently under review. Funding was received to develop an Invasive species information video.

**N.21 - Develop list of species native to County and map of habitats that are at risk for use in EIAs**

**Indicator:** Map of species, completion of list and baseline numbers established

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Action 1.1 in the Biodiversity Plan is;

- Map the distribution of the habitats and species in the County
- Map and manage the spread of non-native invasive species
- Survey and monitor biodiversity at identified pollinator sites
- Survey and map wetlands in the County
- Map the tree canopy cover in the County and quantify its carbon capture
- Map the County's hedgerow network and identify key Green Infrastructure links.

Habitat mapping is ongoing as part of the GI Strategy. A list of species native to the county has been developed.

A Pilot Hedgerow and Woodland survey was completed in Tymon Park. The First phase of a survey for pollinator sites was completed in Tymon, Waterstown, Lucan Demesne parks.

**N.22 - Include native species into local authority plans as a key nature-based measure where appropriate**

**Indicator:** # of plans including native species

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Native species are included in plans where appropriate. Advice re native/appropriate species is also included in Tree Management Policy, SDCC Pollinator

Plan, CDP and Biodiversity Action Plan. Planning advice to developers includes advice on planting native species. GI Strategy and Parks and open spaces strategy will support this action.

### **N.23 - Survey, map and implement control of invasive species**

**Indicator:** Reduction of M2 of IAS and # of IAS

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Progress on this action is ongoing. A review of the survey, mapping & treatment programme has been carried out. Interagency/LA working group has been set up to share information on work programmes etc. Funding from NPWS was received for an in-house training video on invasive species.

### **N.24 - Incorporate actions from national pollinator plan into Green infrastructure Strategy**

**Indicator:** Plan implemented

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** A Countywide GI Strategy is included as a GI Chapter of the Draft County Development Plan. The SDCC Pollinator Plan is implementing actions from National Pollinator Plan.

### **N.25 - Manage and monitor identified 'pollinator protection sites'**

**Indicator:** % of pollinator species increased

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC manages over 1,500 hectares of parks and open spaces and have been implementing a decreased mowing regime over the past number of years. SDCC is establishing grassland management regimes which will help to establish habitats for wildlife and nesting birds. SDCC currently manage 136 Ha of Pollinator friendly meadows. SDCC have also signed up to the National Pollinator Plan. SDCC have received funding from NPWS to undertake a survey of pollinator sites in;

- Tymon Park



- Waterstown Park
- Vesey Park
- Lucan Demesne.

First phase of survey of pollinator sites in 3 parks has been completed (Tymon, Waterstown, Lucan Demesne). The 2nd phase of the survey is ongoing.

#### **N.26 - Maintain and expand allotments for local food production**

**Indicator:** # of sites across the County

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** A review of the SDCC allotments strategy has commenced.

#### **N.27 - Support local communities with biodiversity education**

**Indicator:** # of participants, yearly reports

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** The Community Environment Action Fund (CEAF) promotes sustainable development by assisting small-scale environmental projects at a local level. SDCC received funding of €17,000 on 2020 and supported 14 biodiversity projects. The CEAF 2020/2021 was not available in 2021. SDCC continue to support the Green Schools programme which includes biodiversity education.

#### **N.28 - Sustainable gardening workshops**

**Indicator:** # of workshops held, # of attendees

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC support local communities and Tidy Towns Groups with sustainable gardening workshops. Master composter programme training provided communities an opportunity to manage and develop community composting demonstration site.

Pilot Composting for Schools Campaign will take place in Sept 2021. All schools in South Dublin have been asked to participate.

**N.29 - Develop demonstration sites to show how to combine nature conservation with existing land uses**

**Indicator:** Demonstration sites implemented

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC's Green Infrastructure Strategy will include a range of Case studies including pollinator sites. The development Old Bawn Pavilion includes green roof and SuDS provisions.

Integrated Constructed Wetlands currently in development as part of the Life project and the Flood Alleviation Schemes will also demonstrate how to combine nature and biodiversity with existing land use.

**N.30 - Deliver green roofs on Civic Buildings**

**Indicator:** # of council buildings with Green Roofs

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Green roofs have been developed in South Dublin at the following locations:

- Dodder Park Pavilion
- Valhalla Housing Watery Lane, Clondalkin
- Round Tower Visitor Centre, Clondalkin
- St. Dominic's Community Centre, Tallaght.
- Saggart Depot

Green roofs are planned to be developed on the following SDCC projects

- Corkagh Park Pavilion
- Griffeen Park Pavilion
- Saggart Community Centre.

A Green roof is included in plans for Tymon Park Intergenerational Centre (part 8 passed June 2021).

UCD are currently monitoring and collecting rainfall and attenuation data on the Saggart Depot green roof.

**N.31 - Maintain and increase Green Schools Programme participation**

**Indicator:** # of schools participating

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** The Green Schools programme ongoing in South Dublin.

**N.32 - Engage with residents and relevant stakeholders on climate change and biodiversity to incorporate their ideas into Council strategies and plans**

**Indicator:** # of participants, # of interactions

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Public consultation and webinars were carried out for the Biodiversity Action Plan and for CDP review including consultation on GI Strategy. Public open space strategy was separate.

Currently over 100 events planned across Dublin as part of Climate Action Week which aims to engage all citizens on a range of climate relate issues and inform them on what the LAs are doing in this area.

**N.33 - Assess the benefit of increasing buffer distance of 10m from water courses to protect biodiversity and provide greater flood attenuation for distances of 20m, 50m, and 100m.**

**Indicator:** Comprehensive assessment completed

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** As an addition to the development of strategic flood risk assessment for the CDP, the consultants were engaged to carry out a hydrological assessment at a strategic level. The Draft Plan includes mapped riparian corridors for the first time and associated policy which has been developed on foot of the hydrological assessment.

## 5.5. Resource Management Action Updates

### R.1 - Monitor and enforce waste regulation

**Indicator:** Environmental Performance Assessment from EPA

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Monitoring and enforcement of waste regulation in South Dublin is ongoing. SDCC Waste Enforcement Officers engage with business and communities to help manage waste and prevent illegal dumping. CCTV monitoring of bottle banks and high-risk dumping sites is ongoing. To date in 2021:

- 1046 inspections have taken place
- 430 warning/ enforcement notices have been issued

### R.2 - Introduce measures to reduce waste in Council Buildings

**Indicator:** 10% reduction in waste in Council HQ building by 2021

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Measures to reduce waste in County Council buildings are ongoing. SDCC work in partnership with AES/BNM to reduce waste. Climate Change and Environmental Awareness Officer engages with building managers to further reduce waste. SDCC are actively engaged with office contractors including canteen management to reduce waste. SDCC actively dissuade the use of single use plastics at County Council supported events. Waste in Council buildings has been reduced due to home working as a result of Covid-19 - office based staff levels currently at 50%.

### R.3 - Introduce measures to increase recycling in Council buildings

**Indicator:** % Recycling Rate

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Council have introduced several measures to increase recycling in Council buildings. Single use cups and cutlery have been removed from the canteen and coffee dock. Segregated bins and composting facilities have been introduced in the offices and canteen. Old used batteries are collected and returned for recycling. WEEE collection schemes are promoted annually in County Council buildings. Additional

measures including kitchen caddies are currently under consideration to assist composting. Corporate renegotiating canteen contract.

#### **R.4 - Civic amenity waste stations**

**Indicator:** # of civic amenity sites that include reuse

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** 2020 tonnages for Ballymount CA show a substantial increase compared to 2019 in all waste streams including recyclables. 2020 tonnage was 25,361 tonnes compared to 22,992 tonnes in 2019 (increase of 2,369 tonnes or 10%). In light of the new waste policy and emphasis on the circular economy it is likely that all waste streams will be examined in due course to determine which wastes could be prepared for reuse.

LMG to discuss recycling of Polystyrene

Investigate facility for reuse of paint

Weeklong programme (mid Oct.) to remove bulky (furniture) items landfills.

#### **R.5 - Apply for Local Authority Prevention Network grants**

**Indicator:** # of grants for waste related projects

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** LAPN Grant applied for in August. Applied for funding for a Fast Fashion documentary with the other DLAs. SDCC applied for LAPN grant in 2020 and 2021, however applications for funding were unsuccessful.

#### **R.6 - Create 'Stop Food Waste' campaign for businesses and schools**

**Indicator:** Campaign developed and implemented, # of people, businesses and schools engaged

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC ran an online Summer Food Waste Campaign with Catherine Fulvio. The EPA's "Make Fresh Food Last Longer" campaign was also promoted across SDCC social media platforms.

#### **R.7 - Promote Eco-week**

**Indicator:** # of events held, # of people reached

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Eco-week 2021 was delivered virtually in April.

### **R.8 - Promote Re-use month annually**

**Indicator:** # of Council run events

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Reuse month is promoted annually in South Dublin through the Environmental Awareness section.

SDCC Delivered a series of online campaigns as part of Reuse Month in October 2021 including.

- 'repairmystuff.ie' Irish repair directory list promoted through social media /SDCC website
- 'Choose to Reuse' campaign delivered through social media. Encouraging / promoting reusable coffee cups

### **R.9 - Promote programmes to advise businesses on reducing waste, e.g. EcoMerit**

**Indicator:** # of businesses participating

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Working with the LEO & Chamber of Commerce to establish a Sustainable Business Network in South Dublin.

### **R.10 - Eliminate single use plastics at Council organised events**

**Indicator:** Reduction on non-recyclable / non-compostable material used at events

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Council prohibit the use of single-use plastic items at County Council organised and licensed events. SDCC initiated events will allow for compostable materials to be used as substitutes for SUP.

The elimination of single-use plastics suffered a setback in 2020 as a result of Covid.

### **R.11 - Ongoing support of the Conscious Cup Campaign / promotion of reusables over disposables**

**Indicator:** # of buildings in SDCC supporting CCC, # of staff using reusable mugs

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC is currently preparing an online campaign to encourage citizens to start using reusable cups again. We have liaised with the Conscious Cup Campaign on this campaign.

#### **R.12 - Ongoing support of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)**

**Indicator:** Trialled solution

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Council supports SBIR through projects delivering on climate action and waste management. Opportunities for small business to engage with SDCC have been promoted through the LEO and Chamber. Small business initiatives including cigarette butt and plastic recycling and smart-tech litter bins have been supported.

#### **R.13 - Run anti-dumping / anti-litter campaigns**

**Indicator:** # of campaigns implemented

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Council run anti-dumping and anti-litter campaigns on social media. Campaigns to educate members of the public on dog fouling and Covid-19 PPE have been run on social media. SDCC support anti-dumping education through promotion of the Green Schools.

Currently working with other local authorities in the Eastern Midlands Region to deliver a new anti-dog fouling campaign.

2021 Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti funding has been confirmed and a number of anti-littering anti-dog fouling campaigns will be developed and delivered.

#### **R.14 - Waste Prevention Fund**

**Indicator:** # of programmes implemented

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Proposals for project to be developed under the Waste Prevention Fund are currently under consideration.

**R.15 - Introduce measures to reduce waste and increase recycling**

**Indicator:** Reduced waste tonnage and increased rates of recycling

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** No change in the number of recycling bring banks. The review of the Community Recycling Strategy through the SPC has not yet commenced, put on hold for now pending progress on the preparation of a new waste management plan to replace the 3 existing regional plans. It is expected to commence later in the year. It is hoped that the new strategy document can outline a new approach for the identification and roll out of additional bring sites. Five additional water stations provided in 2020, bringing the total to 14. New schemes will give consideration to the provision of a water stations if appropriate.

**R.16 - Provide more glass recycling in public realm**

**Indicator:** Areas of need identified, # of glass banks added

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Glass tonnage recycled in 2020 was 6,315 tonnes which is an increase of 1,651 tonnes over the 2019 tonnage (35% increase).

**R.17 - Introduce leaf composting programme**

**Indicator:** # of residents' associations participating

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Leaf collection forms part of the road sweeping contract held by Oxigen. Leaves from this are sent for composting - 1,074 tonnes of leaves composted in 2020. Leaf collection under the Oxigen contract commenced on Sept 1st.

**R.18 - Support and promote tidy towns initiative in County**

**Indicator:** # of initiatives supported annually

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Council continue to support the Tidy Towns programme through funding and training. Community workshops on Climate Change and local



initiatives were organised in 2020 delivered to interested community groups and Tidy Towns committees.

**R.19 - Examine the potential of Arthurstown Landfill for development of green energy uses**

**Indicator:** Zero GHG emissions by 2030

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Funding provided in the capital works programme for this 75kw project. The small scale (zero carbon) project is to proceed in 2021, as well as a feasibility study on the larger scale commercial project.

DeliverEEE (CoDEMA) project starting in September 2021 will provide support for funding the projects.

**R.20 - Implement water conservation campaign in civic buildings**

**Indicator:** % reduction in water consumed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Corporate Building Maintenance Contractor Framework tender process to be completed. Works will be arranged when Contractor is appointed.

**R.21 - Identify pilot locations for water access points.**

**Indicator:** Sites identified

**Status:** Completed

**Update:** Additional 5 water stations installed in 2020 bringing total number to 14.

**R.22 - The Council will work with the Local Authority Waters Programme in its support of communities and stakeholders in the delivery of local water quality projects and initiatives**

**Indicator:** # of projects delivered

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** 3rd cycle of River Basin Management Plan will be going to public consultation. LAWPRO will be conducting public engagement projects and workshops.

#### **R.23 - Trial of low-flush toilets in Council headquarters and social housing**

**Indicator:** # of Council buildings and social housing units with low flush toilets

**Status:** Not Started

**Update:** To be introduced as part of next phase of refurbishment of toilets phase 2.

#### **R.24 - Research feasibility of rainwater harvesting in Council Buildings**

**Indicator:** Study completed

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** Rainwater harvesting opportunities at county hall were investigated as measures to reduce consumption of treated water and to aid attenuation. The project was deemed to be not economically viable in County Hall or Clondalkin offices. The proposal is being considered on other Council buildings, including the development of green and blue roofs. Consider at various depot designs.

#### **R.25 - Promote recycling and the circular economy to householders through a range of workshops, talks and programmes**

**Indicator:** # of events held, # of people reached

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** South Dublin County Council continue to promote recycling, sustainable living and the circular economy to households and community groups through the delivery of workshops and discussions. A Circular Economy Event will take place on Saturday 18th September in Rathfarnham Castle Park as part of Dublin Climate Action Week. The Rediscovery Centre, the National Centre for the Circular Economy in Ireland. During Climate Action Week 2021 a series of Climate Change workshops were delivered to both community groups and young people with the aim of inspiring changes.

#### **R.26 - Explore collaboration with stakeholders such as Refill.ie to reduce single use items**

**Indicator:** # of collaborations established

**Status:** Ongoing

SDCC works with several organisations to promote sustainable behaviour among the citizens of the county. In the past we have worked with the Conscious Cup Campaign (single use coffee cups) and Refill Ireland (water bottles). Covid has impacted our ability to run initiatives in this area. SDCC will continue to promote reusables across all SDCC social media channels.

**R.27 - The Council will strengthen existing networks and create new climate change links to encourage all business community stakeholders to engage with Climate Change action and enhance existing projects and initiatives. Interest areas could include energy efficiency measures, renewable energy opportunities, climate adaptation and resilience measures, access to funding sources, etc.**

**Indicator:** # of updated network material

**Status:** Ongoing

**Update:** SDCC is strengthening its existing networks and developing new partnerships to encourage the business community to engage with Climate Action initiatives. The Tallaght District Heating Scheme has presented an opportunity to strengthen its partnership with Technological University of Dublin (Tallaght). SDCC participates in meetings with the South Dublin Chamber, Corporate Social Responsibility Group to develop sustainability and green measures. SDCC encourages our Business Community to participate in the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, (SEAI) Sustainable Energy Communities programme, which supports community efforts and to develop networks of energy awareness.

Client Stimulus Scheme consultancy was selected as an option by 2 of the 38 companies in the Green for Micro initiative.

16 companies availed of the Sustainable Enterprise Programme ran in conjunction with the Chamber in June.

SDCC are seeking additional business partners to connect to the Tallaght District Heating Scheme.

## 6.0. Appendices

### 6.1. Appendix I : References

1. <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/documents/National%20Adaptation%20Framework.pdf>
2. <https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/en/>
3. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2021/39/>
4. [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27&clang=en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27&clang=en)
5. IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S. L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M. I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T. K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.
6. <https://unfccc.int/news/ministers-meet-in-milan-for-pre-cop-26-discussions>
7. <https://thecvf.org/press-releases/call-for-emergency-action-to-limit-global-temperature-increases-restore-biodiversity-and-protect-health/>
8. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/27/cop26-climate-talks-will-not-fulfil-aims-of-paris-agreement-key-players-warn>
9. <https://news.trust.org/item/20210923150648-vlksv/>
10. <https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/climate-change/research-386.php>
11. Circular Letter LGSM01-2021 from the Department of Housing & Local Government & Heritage provides a working definition of a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) as a "spatial area identified by the local authority, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets".
12. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ef5ec-housing-for-all-a-new-housing-plan-for-ireland/>
13. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/774e2-national-development-plan-2021-2030/>
14. <https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/WP706.pdf>

15. Tollefson, Jeff. 2021. COVID curbed carbon emissions in 2020 — but not by much. *Nature* **589**, 343 (2021) doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-00090-3>
16. Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and Environmental Protection Agency, 2021. The impact on 2020. greenhouse gas emissions of COVID-19 restrictions. <https://www.seai.ie/publications/The-Impact-on-2020-Greenhouse-Gas-Emissions-of-COVID-19-Restrictions.pdf>
17. [https://www.foe.ie/assets/files/pdf/programme\\_for\\_government\\_report\\_card\\_2021.pdf](https://www.foe.ie/assets/files/pdf/programme_for_government_report_card_2021.pdf)
18. United Nations Environment Programme (2020). Emissions Gap Report 2020. Nairobi. <https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2020>
19. <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/blog/creative-climate-action-fund-projects-announced/>

## 6.2. Appendix II : Local Authority Climate Action Charter

### CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER

For Local Authorities and Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment on behalf of Government.

**(1) The signatories share the common understanding that:**

- (a) the evidence of global warming is unequivocal, and the effects of climate change are clearly evident;
- (b) it is important to take action and to work together to share best practices, to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and address the impacts of climate change;
- (c) reducing GHG emissions and preparing for climate change impacts will generate environmental, social, economic and health benefits for individuals, families, and communities;
- (d) It is important to take action to adapt to the now inevitable consequences of climate change and to work collectively to ensure that the local authority sector is positioned to build resilience against negative impacts and avail of the positive effects that may occur.

**(2) The signatories acknowledge that a whole of government approach is essential in addressing climate change and recognise that:**

- (a) Central Government has a lead role to play in developing policy and ensuring resources are made available to realise Ireland's commitment to achieving a net zero carbon energy system objective for Irish society and in the process, create a climate resilient, vibrant and sustainable country.
- (b) Local Authorities are ideally placed to provide robust leadership in advancing this objective at the local and regional level. Support and resources will continue to be provided through the National Development Plan allocations, in addition to their own resources, which will aid them in developing and implementing relevant activities under this charter.
- (c) Central and Local Government need to work in partnership and collaboration to ensure an effective response to the challenges presented by climate change.

**(3) This Charter acknowledges that local authorities will, with the support of Central Government:**

- (a) be advocates for Climate Action in our own policies and practices, and in our many various dealings with citizens and to underpin this role through the corporate planning process.
- (b) adhere to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 13 Climate Action.
- (c) aim to measure the carbon impact of our various activities as accurately as possible and report as required so as to inform relevant local, regional and national policies.
- (d) implement, in so far as is practicable, measures which reduce our carbon emissions in line with national objectives, and develop a method for planning and reporting on these actions.
- (e) deliver a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030(on the 2009 baseline).
- (f) ensure that policies and practices at local government level lead us towards low carbon pathways and put in place a process for carbon proofing major decisions, programmes and projects on a systematic basis, including investments in transport and energy infrastructure moving over time to a near zero carbon investment strategy.
- (g) Ask suppliers as part of the procurement process to provide information on their carbon footprint and on the sustainability practices and steps they plan to reduce its impact.
- (h) implement green public procurement strategy and procedures across all business areas.
- (i) support our employees to undertake changes in their lifestyles both at work and at home, to reduce carbon impact and encourage work-based employee-led groups to identify and implement ideas for improvement.
- (j) put in place, and resource, a long term training strategy (technical and behavioural) for LA staff to provide appropriate capacity for the sector to deliver on climate action.
- (k) encourage clients/customers/service users to undertake lifestyle changes to reduce their carbon impact, with a particular emphasis on supporting those clients/customers/service users who may face difficulties in funding such measures.
- (l) cultivate and actively participate in partnerships with enterprise, community and voluntary groups so as to improve the use of resources and reduced climate impact.
- (m) play a key role in helping to build and implement a sustained localised citizen engagement model in supporting the various initiatives under the National Dialogue on Climate Action.
- (n) exercise our planning and regulatory roles to help improve climate outcomes in the wider community and beyond the public sector, by developing and implementing robust evidenced based policy and standards on climate action, through appropriate and relevant adaptation and mitigation measures.

- (o) continue to identify and develop specific actions to be taken to reduce the risks associated with negative climate change impacts and build resilience to these impacts through effective implementation of climate adaptation strategies/ Climate Change Action Plans.
- (p) support elected officials in ensuring all council led activities are climate proofed in terms of achieving effective low carbon and climate resilient outcomes.
- (q) Explore opportunities to partner or collaborate on climate action initiatives across the public, private and education sectors.
- (r) Support Enterprise through LEO/LCDC offices to exploit opportunities which will arise from meeting the challenges of Climate Change.
- (s) Work with relevant stakeholders to source funding for implementing climate action projects.
- (t) Liaise with 3rd level institutions & the research community both nationally and internationally with a view to developing centres of excellence where appropriate.
- (u) Develop links with young citizens to give voice to their understanding and concerns on climate change and to enhance their awareness and the actions that they can take.
- (v) Continue to develop and strengthen links with both central government (relevant departments and agencies) and regional bodies to help ensure a coordinated and coherent approach to the delivery of the national climate action agenda.
- (w) Monitor, evaluate and report annually on the implementation of activities under this charter.



### 6.3. Appendix III : List of Acronyms

ABP	An Bord Pleanála
AIPP	All Ireland Pollinator Plan
AR6	Sixth Assessment Report
BER	Building Energy Rating
CARO	Climate Action Regional Office
CCAC	Climate Change Advisory Committee
CCAP	Climate Change Action Plan
CCMA	County & City Management Association
CDP	County Development Plan
CFRAMs	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment & Management
CODEMA	City of Dublin Energy Management Agency
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine
DCAW	Dublin Climate Action Week
DCC	Dublin City Council
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications
DHPLG	Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government
DLAs	Dublin Local Authorities
DLR	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
DTTAS	Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport
DURL	Dublin Urban Rivers Life Project
DZ	Decarbonising Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMRA	Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority
EMWR	Eastern & Midlands Waste Region
EnPI	Energy Performance Indicator
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPC	Energy Performance Contract
ESB	Electricity Supply Board

ESCo	Energy Service Company
ESRI	Economic & Social Research Institute
EV	Electric Vehicle
EWCC	Environment, Water and Climate Change
FAS	Flood Alleviation Scheme
FCC	Fingal County Council
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GI	Green Infrastructure
GTS	Good Travel Software
ICW	Integrated Constructed Wetland
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISO	International organisation for Standardisation
LAP	Local Area Plan
LASNTG	Local Authority Services National Training Group
LEADER	Liaisons entre actions de developement de Léconomie Rurale
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
LUPT	Land Use, Planning and Transportation
NAF	National Adaptation Framework
NBS	Nature-Based Solutions
NZEB	Nearly Zero Energy Building
NTA	National Transport Authority
NPWS	National Parks & Wildlife Services
OPR	Office of the Planning Regulator
OPW	Office of Public Works
POS	Public Open Space
RD&D	Research, Development & Demonstration
RMCEI	Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections
SDCC	South Dublin County Council
SDZ	Strategic Development Zone
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

SEC	Sustainable Energy Community
SECAP	Sustainable Energy & Climate Action Plan
SEU	Significant Energy User
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SPC	Strategic Policy Committee
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
SUP	Single Use Plastic
TPER	Total Primary Energy Requirement
TUD	Technological University of Dublin
UCD	University College Dublin
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
WHO	World Health Organisation
WIRE	Weather Impacts Register
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design

---