

# 2025 Climate Action Plan Annual Progress Report



Innovation Square  
Apartments



To stay up to date with climate action in South Dublin, check out South Dublin County Council's dedicated Climate Action Website at [www.southdublinclimate.ie](http://www.southdublinclimate.ie)



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

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

SDCC’s Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was approved on 12th February 2024 in accordance with the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021<sup>1</sup> which required all local authorities in Ireland to prepare and make a Climate Action Plan (CAP), in consideration of wider national climate and energy targets. The CAP addresses both mitigation and adaptation measures.

The Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is centred around actions that collectively address the four key targets of this plan, which are framed by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the National Climate Action Plan 2023:

- **50% improvement in the Council’s energy efficiency by 2030;**
- **51% reduction in the Council’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030;**
- **To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events; and**
- **To actively engage and inform our communities on climate action.**

The Plan sets out 129 actions that the Council will undertake in the areas of energy & buildings, transport, flood resilience, nature-based solutions, circular economy & resource management and community engagement. The Plan was developed by SDCC in conjunction with the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and the City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (CODEMA). The Plan was subject to public consultation and Strategic Environmental Assessment processes. SDCC has committed to reviewing and reporting on this Plan annually.

This report refers to the 2025 reporting period.



## 1.2 CLIMATE STAFFING AND GOVERNANCE

The implementation of the SDCC Climate Action Plan is managed by the Climate Action Team.

The Climate Action Team works closely with internal and external stakeholders to deliver actions in the Plan and to progress targets.

Actions are being implemented by all departments of SDCC. Internal cross departmental Climate Action Working Groups meet quarterly to discuss and report on progress on individual actions. The Chairs of these 6 Working Groups then report to the Steering Group.

The CAP was prepared in partnership with the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change Strategic Policy Committee and the Elected Members of South Dublin County Council and they are kept up to date on progress.



Figure 1 Climate Action Reporting Framework

A detailed outline of climate action reporting requirements and arrangements are set out in Chapter 7 Implementation & Reporting of the SDCC CAP.

### Monitoring and Reporting (M&R)

The Council continues to report annually on energy performance and emission targets annually to the SEAI. SDCC has been entering this data into the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)’s Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) System annually since 2011, in order to comply with the reporting requirements of the European Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU. The SEAI reports the evaluated results to SDCC in Q3 of the following year.

### Sectoral Performance

The Council continues to report annually on their performance on climate action by way of KPIs to inform the performance of the local government sector on

climate action, as part of the local government DECA 2030 Strategy.

#### National Climate Action Plan

The Council will, in accordance with Part 3(w) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter, continue to report annually to the Department of Climate, Energy, and the Environment (DCEE) on progress on climate action at local level as part of the delivery of the national climate objective.

#### UN Sustainable Development Goals

The 2018-2020 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan acknowledged that local government ‘has a crucial role to play in translating national policies into tangible practical actions that can help to concretise the SDG objectives into our individual and communities’ behaviours and goals.’ Furthermore, local authorities are recognised as one of the *Agenda 2030*’s nine ‘Major Groups’, which play a crucial role in sustainable development and *Agenda 2030* also highlights the particular role of local authorities and communities in sustainable urban development. The Council is working to advance the SDGs. Each of the actions listed in the Climate Action Plan for the County and for the Decarbonisation Zone are mapped against the relevant goals and targets in the SDG.

### 1.3 UPDATES TO CLIMATE POLICY AND LEGISLATION SINCE THE 2024 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The **Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25)**, published in April 2025, is the third statutory Climate Action Plan. CAP25 builds on the previous plans to provide a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland’s emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. The supplementary Annex of Actions includes only new and high impact actions whilst the full roadmap of actions to support the delivery of our climate targets remains within the Climate Action Plan itself.

#### Le Chéile 28 Statement of Strategy 2025 – 2028

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) set out its policies for accelerating climate action and energy transition for the next 3 years in its **Le Chéile 28 Statement of Strategy 2025 - 2028**. The strategy focuses on sustainable energy systems, circular economy, and environmental protection. To facilitate proactive engagement and provide support for the understanding and adoption of climate action, the Department intends to provide support to Local Government to enhance its role in climate action, in line with their Climate Action Plans.

#### Renewable Heat Obligation Bill

The **Renewable Heat Obligation Bill** was approved in 2025. The scheme which is expected to commence in 2026 will obligate suppliers of fossil fuels to the heat sector to ensure a minimum percentage of their supplied energy comes from renewable sources. As well as reducing emissions and reliance on imported fuels, the Bill aims to boost indigenous biomethane production. Local authorities will play a role in the planning and development of new infrastructure such as anaerobic digestion (AD) plants for producing biomethane and gas grid injection sites.

#### Private Wires Policy Statement

On 15 July 2025, the government adopted a Strategy Statement on Private Wires, a significant reform of the rules on electricity infrastructure. It will unlock private sector investment in electricity infrastructure, particularly renewable generation and storage. It will also facilitate the provision of low-cost charging solutions for electric vehicles and expand opportunities for self-supply of electricity.

At present only ESB Networks can own a line that brings electricity from a generator to an electricity customer. Following an extensive consultation exercise with industry, the government has decided that in future private investors will be able to build and own such lines in the following circumstances:

- A direct connection between a generator, for example a wind farm or solar farm, and an electricity customer, perhaps a factory that wants to decarbonise. There are situations where this is quicker and more efficient than having both parties connect to the grid;
- A wind farm or solar farm owned by one company will be able to share a grid connection with another generator or a battery installation owned by another firm. Previously this could have breached the rules prohibiting private lines;
- Private lines will be allowed where they are the solution to allow on street charging of electric vehicles; and
- To allow a firm that self-supplies electricity to provide electricity to neighbouring customer where the line does not have to cross land owned by a third party

In December 2025, the government approved the General Scheme for a Private Wires Bill and the decision to commence drafting of the bill.

The **Climate Change Advisory Council**<sup>2</sup> in 2025 took a new approach to reviewing the Irish Government’s progress on climate action. A key task of the Council is to conduct an annual review of progress made over the

previous year across all sectors, in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and furthering the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable economy and society by 2050. To deliver on this function, the CCAC produced sector focused annual reviews as follows:

1. Annual Review 2025- Our Changing Climate in 2024 (March 19, 2025)
2. Annual Review 2025 – Electricity (29 April 2025)
3. Annual Review 2025 – Transport (18 June 2025)
4. Annual Review 2025 – Agriculture, Land-use and Land-use Change, and Forestry (16 July 2025)
5. Annual Review 2025 – Built Environment, Industry and Waste (2, September 2025)
6. Annual Review 2025 – Preparing for Ireland Changing Climate (29 September 2025)
7. Annual Review 2025 – Biodiversity (14 October 2025)
8. Annual Review 2025 - Summary For All
9. Annual Review 2025 – Cross Sectoral Review

In the fifth edition of the adaptation scorecard, published by CCAC, local authorities were rated ‘good’ in the 2025 Adaptation Scorecard, with well-established governance structures, active cross-departmental coordination, and high levels of implementation of Local Authority Climate Action Plans, where approximately 78% of actions are in progress or completed. The local government sector was rated good in ‘governance and resourcing’ and ‘policy implementation and mainstreaming while was rated moderate for progress in ‘risk and adaptive measures. Key results include expanded staff training with new Local Authority Climate Action Training Plan (2024-2027), mainstreaming of climate considerations into local plans and procedures, innovative adaptation and resilience projects, and efforts at local level to access national and EU funding streams. Progress has also been made in establishing decarbonising zones as demonstration areas for integrated mitigation and adaptation action; however, delivery within these zones is uneven and constrained by the absence of dedicated funding mechanisms.

The report recommends that local authorities strengthen adaptation delivery by securing permanent climate action and adaptation staff posts and expanding overall capacity, as temporary roles and limited staffing are seen as major risks to implementation. It calls for dedicated and multi-annual funding streams for local adaptation and resilience projects, including a specific funding mechanism for Decarbonising Zones, to address current inconsistencies in delivery. Authorities are advised to embed climate risks in corporate risk registers, align actions with the National Climate Change Risk Assessment, and improve regular reporting on risk and progress.

To further support adaptation, the CCAC collaborated with the Central Bank of Ireland to produce **Funding**

**Climate Adaptation in Ireland<sup>3</sup>** which highlights the lack of financing to date and if this continues the increasing costs of inaction.

#### **Ireland’s Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

The Environmental Protection Agency’s **Ireland’s Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2023<sup>4</sup>** was published in July 2024. The report showed that provisional total national greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 (excluding LULUCF) are estimated to be 55.01 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq) which is 6.8% lower (or 4.00 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq) than emissions in 2022 (59.00 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq) and follows a 2.0% decrease in emissions reported for 2022. Emissions in 2023 are 1.2% lower than the historical 1990 baseline for the first time in 33 years.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s **Ireland’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2024-2055<sup>5</sup>** was published in May 2025. It provides an assessment of Ireland’s total projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2023 to 2050, using the latest inventory data for 2023 as the starting point. The focus of the assessment is out to 2030 given current national and EU 2030 climate targets. Extended projections out to 2055 are also provided. Key findings include:

- Ireland is not on track to meet the 51 per cent emissions reduction target (by 2030 compared to 2018) based on these projections which include most 2024 Climate Action Plan measures
- Budget period 1 (2021-2025) of 295 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq is projected to be exceeded by between 8 to 12 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq.
- Budget period 2 (2026-2030) of 200 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq is also expected to be exceeded by a significant margin of 77 to 114 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq (with carryover from Budget period 1).

#### **Ireland’s Annual Report 2024 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance**

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland’s **Annual Report 2024 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance<sup>6</sup>** showed in its breakdown of final energy consumption by subsector, that Local Authorities & Water Services were the second biggest energy consumer in the public sector. The breakdown of 2023 energy-related GHGs by energy type for the entire public sector showed electricity related GHGs to be largest (41%) followed by transport (21%) and natural gas (20%). Energy efficiency performance for Irish public bodies has improved by 34.9% since baseline, where fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have decreased by 6.3% since the greenhouse gas baseline, and total energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have decreased by 24.1%.

### National Climate Change Risk Assessment

The Environmental Protection Agency published Ireland’s first National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA)<sup>7</sup>. The NCCRA is a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of climate change on Ireland’s environment, economy and society. The NCCRA:

- Identifies, ranks, and prioritises national climate change risks.
- Identifies areas where action needs to be prioritised to make Ireland more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Supports the prioritisation of adaptation-related investments in infrastructure and improve the robustness of policy development in climate-sensitive sectors.
- Provides a consistent evidence base on which to inform the development of the National Adaptation Framework and other adaptation responses at a national level, such as the Central Bank of Ireland’s Climate Risk and Sustainable Finance Forum.
- Provides a national reference for conducting and updating sectoral, local, and other stakeholder adaptation plans in Ireland.

(It should be noted that localised analysis is still needed, to ensure adaptation measures are appropriate and do not result in maladaptation).

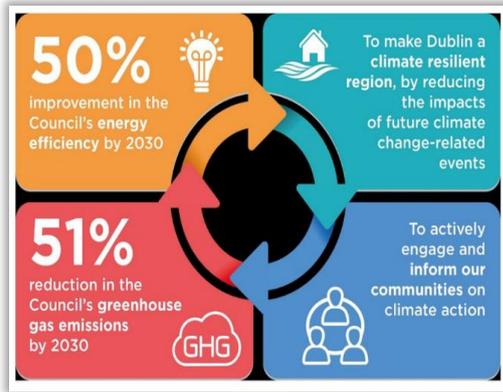
The NCCRA has critically highlighted the systemic impacts of risks, that an impact in on sector could have a chain reaction in other, further highlighting the importance of a whole of government systems approach to climate action.



Figure 2 NCCRA Findings

## 2. CAP 2024-29

SDCC is continuing to work towards achieving the four key targets of the CAP, which are framed by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the National Climate Action Plan.



TARGET	2022	2023	2024	2025
% Improvement in Energy Efficiency	40.59%	45.4%	44.2%	46.2%*
% Reduction in Total GHG Emissions	31.1%	41.8%	43.5%	49.9%*

\* 2025 figures are preliminary estimates, based on best available data, confirmed figures are expected from the SEAI evaluation of the M&R data in Q3/Q4 2026.

Table 1: Progress against our Key Targets

As summarised in the table above, SDCC's overall progress to date indicates that SDCC is on track to achieve our key targets by 2029.

Further detail of the work being undertaken across all of the Actions to date, which feed into the key targets, is set out in the following sections of this progress report.

### 2.1 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: KEY ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CARBON EMISSIONS TARGETS

#### 50% Improvement in Energy Efficiency

While final energy efficiency results for 2025 will not be confirmed until Q4 2026 by the SEAI based on the Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) data, early estimates suggest SDCC may be on track to achieve a 46.2% improvement in 2025. The most recent validated data from the SEAI (M&R) database for 2024 shows that, after adjusting for population growth, SDCC has already improved its energy efficiency by 44.2% compared with the baseline year.

#### 51% Reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions

SDCC continues to make progress towards the GHG emissions target. In 2025, SDCC's estimated Total (Electricity and Direct) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were approximately 6069 tCO<sub>2</sub>, representing a 49.9% reduction in total GHG emissions. Direct emissions (Transport & Thermal) are estimated to be 2404 tCO<sub>2</sub>, representing 18.6% reduction in total GHG emissions.

Making Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events.

The impacts of climate change will require taking practical actions to manage risks such as those from flooding and sea level rise. Implementing strategies that protect and enhance our green infrastructure, promote SuDS to manage surface water and reduce flooding risks e.g. Flood Alleviation Schemes, will help to protect communities and strengthen the resilience of the economy.

Actively engaging and informing our communities on climate action. As climate change challenges demand a collective response, SDCC will collaborate with individuals, communities, and businesses through various channels to promote effective action and engagement.

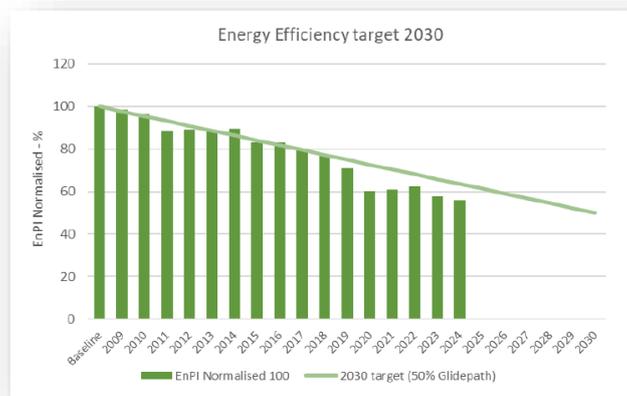


Figure 2: Energy Efficiency Chart – annual progress

## 2.2 FOCUS ON ACTIONS

SDCC has identified a number of strategic actions that will play a crucial role in achieving the targets of the CAP. These actions are designed to address key objectives and drive progress towards the successful implementation of the plan. They include: the continuation of the public lighting retrofit programme; decarbonisation of our buildings with high energy demand; and decarbonisation of at least 31% of our Fleet. Other notable actions include the continued delivery of the Cycle South Dublin Programme; the rollout of the Dublin Region EV Charging Strategy; and the continued retrofit of the Council's social housing stock.



## 2.3 ENERGY AND BUILDINGS

### Managing Energy in SDCC

In 2025, significant milestones were achieved in reducing the carbon footprint of council-owned buildings. Progress continued on the development of new Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs) across six of the highest energy-consuming buildings. With the preferred bidder identified, a technical review of the EPC proposal was initiated, including detailed financial and carbon-benefit analyses. A favourable outcome of the review will allow contract signing to progress in 2026.

The contract for the installation of solar PV systems on council buildings—such as libraries and community centres—was awarded in October 2025. Detailed design has been completed, and ESB applications are currently in progress for the first 11 buildings.

Following the appointment of a new Energy Officer in October 2025, work towards ISO 50,001 Energy Management Certification recommenced. A draft implementation plan and timeline was completed with the aim of achieving ISO certification in 2026.

In 2025 five Significant Energy Users (SEU's) accounted for 85% of total energy used in SDCC.

	SEU Group	% Total Final Energy Consumption
SEU 1	Public Lighting	36%
SEU 2	Transportation / Fleet	17%
SEU 3	Leisure Centres	16%
SEU 4	Corporate Office Buildings	10%
SEU 5	Culture	6%
<b>TOTAL for ISO 50001 Implementation</b>		<b>85%</b>

Table 2: SDCC Significant Energy Users

### Retrofitting SDCC housing stock

All new social houses are built to Near Zero Energy Building Standard. However, there is a need to upgrade existing housing stock to B2 BER Standard.

In 2025 SDCC continued to manage and maintain the social housing stock of 10,497 units. The Housing Department continued to deliver the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme and 98 homes were upgraded to B2 BER standard. The works to each property can include a combination of new windows and doors, upgrading on existing building fabric insulation properties and the installation of energy efficient air to water heating systems. A total of 421 homes have been upgraded to B2 standard since the programme commenced in 2013.

### Tallaght District Heating Network

South Dublin District Heating (t/a Heatworks) continued to deliver low carbon heat to customers under phase one of our district heating network which includes the Work IQ building and 133 cost rental apartments at Innovation Square. In 2025 the CO2 savings are 1,421.84 tons contributed to our decarbonisation goals.

This phase is now complete and was supported by funding of €4.9m from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE). District heating network pipes were installed during construction of the Airton Road extension to facilitate future district heating connections, and funding for a second phase is currently being pursued with DCEE.

Works were completed on the Airton Road extension in Cookstown which incorporated infrastructure to support future extension of our district heating network. Efforts to secure additional customers for the network are ongoing, with SDCC exploring potential expansion

options and funding streams to further enhance this innovative infrastructure.



*Innovation Square Apartments heated from the Heat Works District Heating Energy Centre located on the Belgard Road in Tallaght*

**Energy Awareness Toolkit**

SDCC is looking toward a greener future with the launch of new guides aimed at helping residents address energy use in their home.

A series of jargon-free leaflets were designed for householders and social housing tenants trying to understand their new heat pump or just looking for a clearer, roadmap to assist in reducing energy bills and carbon footprints.

One of the primary goals of the new literature is to clear the air around heat pump technology. As Ireland (& the local authority) moves away from fossil fuel boilers, many residents have questions. SDCC's "Myth Buster" leaflet addresses these head-on:

- Efficient Operation
- Built for Irish Winters
- Versatility
- Installation & Running Costs



For householders, the pamphlet highlights the significant SEAI grants available to offset installation costs, while the tenant version focuses on how to operate these systems for maximum comfort and minimum cost. An accompanying Heat Pump Myth

Buster video has been procured and will be finalised in early 2026 to be distributed within SDCC.

Beyond high-tech hardware, the Smarter Living toolkit offers essential information on daily energy efficiency. The message to the public is clear: you don't need a massive renovation to make a difference. Key takeaways include:

- Heating Habits
- Optimising Appliances
- Ventilation & Draughts
- Efficient Cooking

The guides also place an emphasis on home maintenance.

These pamphlets are available across SDCC in libraries, at climate events and digitally on the SDCC Climate Action website [www.sdcc.ie/climateaction](http://www.sdcc.ie/climateaction).

For new tenants, they will serve as an essential "welcome pack" to help them navigate modern energy systems.

**2.4 TRANSPORT**

**Decarbonising SDCC Fleet**



In 2025, SDCC continued its transition from Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles to more sustainable alternatives, supporting the goals set out in the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. The Council is committed to increasing the number of electric and alternative fuel vehicles within its fleet. Priority is given to selecting vehicles that are both fit for their intended purpose and meet operational requirements. Each vehicle type will undergo a thorough assessment to ensure it can effectively fulfil the council's operational needs while contributing to its climate targets.

By the end of 2025 66% of SDCC diesel vehicles were using Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO), which is a sustainable, renewable diesel fuel produced from waste vegetable oils and fats. This initiative serves as an interim measure, providing the necessary time to upgrade our

EV charging infrastructure and facilitate the future purchase of a larger volume of electric vehicles for our smaller fleet. Additionally, it provides a more sustainable

approach for the larger vehicles, for which there is currently no electric alternative, and allows for research into the development of alternative fuels for these larger vehicles that are essential in our fleet.

By the end of 2025 a further 6% of SDCC fleet had been converted to electric vehicles. A new Fleet Management System (FMS) was implemented in 2025 by the Mechanical Services Team, which will serve to further the decarbonisation of the fleet in 2026.

**Active Travel Progress**

By the end of 2025 a total of 68km, representing 48% of the Cycle South Dublin Programme was delivered or was under construction.

In 2025 SDCC was allocated €21.5 million in NTA Funding. This grant was the third highest allocation to a local authority nationally and will a dedicated team of technical and administrative staff manage the delivery of active travel projects.

In 2025 substantial progress was made on delivering and upgrading cycling and walking infrastructure in the County.

Progress	2025
New & Upgraded Cycle Lanes (linear metres)	19,866m
New & Upgraded Footpaths	62,579m <sup>2</sup>

*Table 3: Active Travel Delivery in 2025*

The Active Travel Team completed the construction of several active travel routes throughout the county.

- Dodder Greenway
- Butterfield Avenue
- Oldbridge Road
- Spawell Link Road
- Phase 2 of the D24 Network

The Active Travel Team also worked improve safety on main access routes to schools.

In 2025, 9 schools benefitted from Safe Routes to Schools, School Streets and other active travel schemes in South Dublin. These projects provide increased safety for the students and provide a more viable way for students to walk and cycle to school.

The primary school cycle training programme was implemented again in 2025, with 36 schools and 2,033 students participating in the programme.



*Bike Week took place in May 2025. Events included a Family Fun Cycle in Dodder Valley Park on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Participants included cycle groups, solo cyclists, disability groups and families.*

**Staff Travel Hub**

Work progressed on the Staff Travel Hub, which aims to support staff in moving away from using private cars for daytime work trips.

This project is being delivered by a dedicated internal working group featuring representatives from Climate Action, Corporate, Active Travel, Facilities, Health & Safety and Digital Services. By pooling expertise, we've ensured that the hub is a practical, safe and tech-ready solution for the modern workday.

In 2025 the team met with external vendors and our neighbours in other Dublin local authorities, while developing ideas internally, to identify the best fit for SDCC's specific needs. Preliminary Market Consultation (PMC) was conducted, where six specialist vendors provided detailed insights into their offerings. As a result, we have curated a solution that balances versatility with ease of use, best suiting the needs of SDCC.

The initial rollout will include:

- Nine E-Bikes: A diverse selection including cargo bikes (perfect for moving gear), long-tails, standard and foldable models for maximum flexibility.
- Two Electric Vehicles (EVs): For longer journeys or when a bike just won't do.

A centralised booking system will keep things seamless. Initially, this will be used to manage the EV fleet, ensuring vehicle availability when you need it. In due

course, the system will expand to include e-bike bookings as well.

This hub represents a major step in reducing our corporate carbon footprint while providing staff with healthier, faster ways to get around the county.

Progress is ongoing, with the next steps finalising designs and tendering of the e-bike parking cage and then going to tender for the e-bikes, EVs and booking system.

## 2.5 FLOOD RESILIENCE

### Flood Alleviation Schemes

Delivery of the **Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme** continued in 2025.

Works commenced on the scheme in April 2024 with a 36-month programme. Once the scheme is completed it will provide flood protection to over 900 residential properties and 50 commercial properties in a 1 in 100-year rainfall event.

A new flow control structure and impoundment area was completed in Tymon Park. The impoundment area provides the main flood defence benefit of the scheme by enabling up to 65,000m<sup>3</sup> of water to be stored in the lake there during a rainfall event increasing capacity in the downstream river channel. The impact of this impoundment area was seen during Storm Chandra in January 2026, where flooding that might have been expected in areas downstream for similar events, did not occur.

A new 2,000m<sup>2</sup> Integrated Constructed Wetland was completed on the River Poddle in Tymon Park as part of the scheme.

**Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme** - Works commenced in April 2023 with 27-month programme. The Whitechurch Stream was identified under the Dodder Catchment Based Flood Risk Assessment and Management as being liable to flooding during a one in one-hundred-year flood event - putting homes, businesses and lives at risk. The €2 million investment will protect over 170 properties including 150 homes and up to 20 businesses.

The **River Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme** is being progressed at preliminary design stage, with complex modelling ongoing.

### Major Emergency Management Planning

SDCC recognises the increasing interconnectedness of major emergency management planning and climate action. As climate change amplifies the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, robust emergency preparedness becomes even more critical. SDCC's

approach integrates these two vital areas, ensuring the county is not only prepared for current risks but also building resilience against future climate-related challenges.

Climate change is projected to bring a range of impacts to South Dublin County, including increased flooding due to heavier rainfall, more frequent and intense storms, and prolonged periods of heat or drought. These changes can significantly exacerbate existing hazards and create new ones, placing additional strain on emergency services and community resources.

### Integrating Climate Action into Emergency Management

SDCC's climate action plan directly informs and strengthens its major emergency management planning in several key ways:

- **Climate Risk Assessment:** The council's climate action plan includes a detailed assessment of climate-related risks, providing crucial information for emergency planning. This assessment identifies specific vulnerabilities within the county, such as areas prone to flooding or those with aging infrastructure susceptible to extreme weather. This data is then integrated into the broader emergency risk assessment process.
- **Scenario Planning:** Climate change scenarios are incorporated into emergency planning exercises. This allows SDCC and its partner agencies to prepare for the unique challenges posed by climate-related events, such as more complex and prolonged emergencies, larger-scale evacuations, and increased demand for resources.
- **Infrastructure Resilience:** SDCC's climate action plan prioritizes investments in infrastructure resilience, recognizing that robust infrastructure is essential for effective emergency response. This includes upgrading flood defences, improving drainage systems, and strengthening critical infrastructure like hospitals and emergency services facilities. Resilient infrastructure minimizes the impact of extreme weather events and facilitates a faster recovery.
- **Resource Management:** Climate change can strain resources during emergencies. SDCC's climate action plan addresses resource management by promoting sustainable practices and investing in resources that are adaptable to changing conditions.

- **Nature-Based Solutions:** SDCC's climate action plan incorporates nature-based solutions, such as green infrastructure and tree planting, which can play a vital role in both climate mitigation and adaptation. These solutions can help reduce flood risk, provide shade during heatwaves, and enhance community resilience. They also contribute to carbon sequestration, mitigating the impacts of climate change.

In 2025 the severe weather response plan was implemented four times, for the following primary weather (wind / rain) events:

- 24/01/25 Storm Eowyn (red wing warning)
- 20/07/25 Status Orange Rainfall warning
- 14/11/25 Status Orange Rainfall warning (Storm Claudia)
- 09/12/25 Storm Bram (Orange wind warning)

SDCC's Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) met eight times, and the Crisis Management Team (CMT) was activated for one event and met twice.

The members of the SWAT and CMT were provided with powerbanks to power phones and laptops, to reduce impacts of potential power outages during severe weather.

**Climate Action in our Villages Improvement Schemes**

In 2025, several District Enhancement Schemes delivered improvements across the County while also delivering on multiple climate action objectives.

The Rosemount District Enhancement Scheme was officially opened during the year. The project introduced a range of upgrades designed to prioritise sustainable mobility, including reduced car dominance and enhanced walking and cycling infrastructure. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) were installed to improve surface water management and support local biodiversity.

The Rosemount scheme also incorporated circular economy principles. A new public seating area, the Bladebridge Pavilion was installed —a covered seating area that invites people to pause and connect. The pavillion uses repurposed wind turbine blades, providing a distinctive example of innovative reuse in public realm design.

Bawnogue District Enhancement Scheme included SuDS rain gardens designed to manage surface water runoff at source by mimicking natural hydrology. The primary design intention is to attenuate, treat, and infiltrate stormwater rather than convey it rapidly to piped drainage networks.



**2.6 NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**

**Tree Planting**

From absorbing carbon to supporting biodiversity and improving air quality trees continue to play an important role in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

SDCC remains committed to enhancing the county's landscape through a sustained and strategic tree-planting programme.

Progress in 2025	Number of Trees
Trees planted in Q1	1676
Trees planted in Q2	0
Trees planted in Q3	0
Trees planted in Q4	1896
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3572</b>

Table 3: Trees Planted in 2025

These newly planted trees contribute to an estimated 75,000 street trees recorded on *Arbotrack*, SDCC's tree-maintenance mapping system. Collectively, these street trees are estimated to have sequestered approximately 22,630 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e to date.

In addition, SDCC data indicates that our parks and open spaces are home to more than 125,000 trees, further strengthening the county's green infrastructure and supporting long-term climate resilience.

The regular tree planting and maintenance programme is supported by Miyawaki mini woodlands planting. Miyawaki mini woodlands are small, dense, rapid-growing plantations of entirely native species in an urban setting. Through this we are able to create mature native forests ten times faster than conventional plantations.

In 2025, approximately 3,082m<sup>2</sup> of native woodland was planted with 8, 350 native tree saplings in parks in South

Dublin as part of a wider landscape and woodland restoration project being undertaken by Public Realm. Site preparatory works were carried out on a further 1680 m<sup>2</sup> in 2025. Works included clearing and removing debris, laying cardboard and spreading mulch to enrich the soil.

Community groups assisted in the delivery of the mini woodlands. As well as being important ecological features these projects are a great way of involving communities in positive Environmental Actions.

**ICWs delivering for the local environment**

Following the completion of the Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (DURL) Project—which focused on improving river water quality impacted by human activities—a survey of insect diversity was undertaken in August 2025 at seven Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) cells across South Dublin.

The survey established a strong baseline for future monitoring and recorded a notably high level of insect diversity. In total, 68 species were identified across five sites, including Griffeen Valley Park (Esker South), Dodder Valley Park (Old Bawn), and Tymon Park (Templeogue).

Among the species recorded, two were identified as localised or rare:

- **Grassminer (*Elachista maculicerusella*)**, a micro-moth, found at the Tymon Park ICW cells. This represents **the first recorded occurrence of this species in Dublin.**
- **Bulrush Wainscot (*Nonagria typhae*)**, a macro-moth, recorded at the Griffeen Valley Park ICW cells.

These findings underscore the ecological value of ICWs as habitats that support diverse and, in some cases, rare insect species.

Further surveys planned for spring and early summer 2026 are expected to add to the species list, as insect communities fluctuate seasonally and are closely linked to plant-species availability.



**2.7 CIRCULAR ECONOMY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Managing and reducing waste in SDCC**

We are making tangible changes to reduce daily waste throughout SDCC. County Hall will soon see the rollout of a new 3-bin system. This Green, Brown and Black segregation setup will be installed across the building to ensure food waste and recyclables are diverted from landfill/incineration effectively. An accompanying 3-Bin video has been procured and will be finalised in early 2026 to be distributed within SDCC.

In 2025 the SDCC canteen continued its green transformation. This progress is driven by a dedicated working group featuring representatives from Climate Action, Facilities, Corporate and our Canteen team, who have been meeting regularly to ensure our catering services align with the Council’s climate targets.

Successes in 2025 included the elimination of single-use sauce sachets. The move to reusable pump dispensers will save an estimated 30,000 single-use sachets per year. Having planned and procured in 2025, the DRS ‘Return-For-Children’ bin was introduced into the canteen, providing a convenient way for staff to engage with the Deposit Return Scheme while supporting children’s charities.



These initiatives demonstrate that small, daily choices in County Hall contribute to our broader climate mission.

**Fast Fashion Documentary**

“*Losing the Thread: The Cost of Fast Fashion*”, premiered on Friday, October 3rd, at the Lighthouse Cinema in Smithfield. A collaboration between the four Dublin Local Authorities and funded by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, the launch of the film was attended by over 150 students from across Dublin

The film, which is now available to view on the <https://mywaste.ie/sustainability/clothes-and-textiles/losing-the-thread-documentary/> takes an honest look at Ireland's Fast Fashion problem. It examines the environmental impact, the ethical dilemmas and shares the opinions of shoppers on Dublin's shop streets. It ultimately ends with an inspiring turn, showcasing positive and practical steps we can take, featuring expert opinions from Ireland's burgeoning circular economy space.

The launch was a vibrant mix of education and inspiration which included a circular clothes swap, upcycling workshops, expert advice and an interactive panel discussion with experts in the circular economy. The activities included a fully circular swap shop where over 200 items of clothing were traded! The film and launch are part of the four Dublin Local Authority's commitment to supporting circular economy and reducing textile waste.

**Promoting Reuse at Ballymount Civic Amenity Site**

SDCC in collaboration with Panda and Balsam Hill, a leading artificial reusable Christmas tree company, launched an innovative new recycling scheme for artificial trees for the 2025 Christmas season.

Project reTREE, which is the first of its kind, began on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and continued until the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026. Householders across the county were invited to dispose of their old or broken artificial Christmas trees, including pre-lit trees with light strings attached at Ballymount Civic Amenity Site. All artificial trees, regardless of brand were accepted free of charge. Working with Panda and Balsam Hill these trees were then shipped to France to be recycled properly.

Recycling artificial Christmas trees brings many benefits such as preventing unnecessary landfill waste, conserve resources used in manufacturing and will allow for the metal and plastic in the trees to be repurposed supporting sustainability.

This initiative collected 7.5 tonnes of artificial Christmas trees which will be properly recycled.

The project was run in conjunction with SDCC's regular Christmas Tree collection from various locations around the county in January. This service is also free.

In 2025, SDCC continued to divert non-hazardous waste paint collected at the Ballymount Civic Amenity Site from disposal or incineration. Working with partners 3.88 tonnes of non-hazardous waste paint was recycled in 2025.

**Building Homes Sustainably**

SDCC and Coillte, Ireland's semi-state forestry company, announced in June of 2025 a collaboration on a sustainable house-building project on Council land at

Melrose Court, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. The innovative project will see the construction of 27 age-friendly homes to A1 energy performance, using low carbon homegrown timber from Ireland's forests.

Wood products have the lowest embodied carbon of any mainstream building material and Ireland's climate positions us uniquely to grow the softwood required for low carbon homes of the future.

The scheme, which was designed and specified by SDCC architects, set sustainability as a key criterion. It promotes the use of offsite engineered timber frame, and modern methods of construction that demonstrate a lower embodied carbon approach. The project has the potential to become a model for Local Authority developments across the country.

**2.8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**Dublin Climate Action Week 2025**



Dublin Climate Action Week (DCAW) 2025 proved to be a success for SDCC, showcasing the momentum behind our climate journey. Running from May 12th to 18th, the week saw SDCC lead or support 60 events, engaging thousands of residents, businesses and staff members across the county.

This year's programme was defined by its variety and depth. A highlight was our Farmers Sustainability Event, where local landowners explored innovative agricultural and biodiversity support schemes. In the Dublin Mountains, volunteers joined our peatland restoration efforts at Upper Glenasmole, participating in vital rewetting projects to boost carbon sequestration and water quality.

Engagement with younger citizens reached new heights, with over 500 students and their teachers attending special cinema screenings of a thought-provoking 'Ocean' documentary, while 19 climate workshops were delivered in SDCC schools. Several schools also took part in mini-woodlands preparations. SDCC libraries became hubs of activity, hosting "Sashiko" mending and fashion

upcycling workshops, home energy-saving clinics and more besides.

Other standout moments included:

- National Bike Week Overlap: Highlighting the link between active travel and emissions reduction.
- Miyawaki Mini-Woodlands: Community planting sessions using rapid-growth urban forestry methods.
- Walks & Talks in the Community: Ranging from guided biodiversity walks to workshops on sustainable energy use.

The success of DCAW25 was made possible through the collaboration of our Climate Action Team, CARO, Codema and community partners. This collective energy will be vital as we continue to implement our Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

**Community Climate Action Programme**

2025 was a landmark year for local community climate action, with the continued delivery of over €1.1 million worth of investment through Phase 1 of the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP). In addition, Phase 2 of the grant saw another € 1.073 million opened for applications for new projects in Q4 2025.



*New Windows and doors at Firhouse Community and Leisure Centre*

How we mitigate continued damage to our climate, and how we adapt to the new reality of impacts caused by a warming atmosphere define the climate response. The Community Climate Action Programme seeks solutions to both. In Phase 1 28 Community Climate Projects were allocated funding.

Throughout 2025, 11 projects focussed on the critical challenge of renewable energy generation in community spaces, through the installation of solar panels. Clondalkin Addiction Support Centre, Rathcoole Community Centre and St. Marks Youth & Family Centre

have undertaken this work, creating small renewable energy hubs across the county, and reducing their operational costs. In total, over 200 kilowatts (kW) of renewable energy will be installed when Phase 1 completes in 2026.

Using less electricity and improving heat retention in community buildings is another essential intervention. A further 13 projects carried out energy efficiency works ranging from switching to higher efficiency LED lighting to upgrading building fabric through new windows, doors, and insulation. Groups supported here include Citywise Education, the Clondalkin Citizen’s Information Centre, Lucan Harriers Athletics Club, and the 103rd Dublin (Willington) Scout Group.

Flooding and heat are two of the most significant climate change impacts. The creation of a new community green space in Bawnogue at ACE Enterprise Park will help absorb more rainfall during local weather events, while native planting will help to cool the air on hot summer days. Circular economy innovation has also been supported. An electrical recycling initiative is under way at 12 sites across the SDCC administrative area, helping reduce the carbon impact inherent in the creation of new materials.

Encouraging more active and lower carbon travel is also central to community level climate action. 2 projects installed bike parking facilities to support cycling, while 3 are delivering new EV charging infrastructure to support the transition away from petrol and diesel journeys. Groups here include Glenasmole Community Centre and Three Rock Rovers Hockey Club.

Building on the success of phase 1, a second round of funding worth €1.073 million will be awarded in April 2026. Upon completion of Phase 1 and 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme, over €2 million will have been invested in climate action in our communities.



**Communicating Climate Action**

It is essential that climate action is visible, that the solutions are discussed and that effective change is seen as possible. 2025 saw SDCC offer new ways to present our climate action to local communities through our climate action website, [www.southdublinclimate.ie](http://www.southdublinclimate.ie).

In 2025 a Climate Action Storymap was added to the website to provide a clear, engaging way to communicate SDCC’s climate action work to councillors, staff and the wider public. Using an innovative, map-based format, the Storymap brings together data,



The Storymap was officially launched by the Mayor of South Dublin County Council Councillor Pamela Kearns at a dedicated event in October of 2025. The project’s impact was further recognised when it was nominated for an SDCC Innovation Award, highlighting how digital innovation can support climate communication within local government.

The Storymap was created by drawing on existing climate data and projects. By combining this information into a single digital platform, the Storymap allows us to complement traditional progress reports, presentations and digital content. The Storymap allows users to explore climate actions geographically and see how local projects contribute to wider SDCC climate objectives.

Climate action can often feel abstract or disconnected from everyday places. This tool helps bridge that gap by grounding climate action in localities. As more climate projects continue to come online the Storymap will continue to evolve and expand as an important communication and engagement tool.

## 2.9 Climate Innovation Fund

The SDCC Climate Innovation Fund was established to support innovative projects that contribute to climate action. The fund aligns with the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Projects seeking funding must demonstrate alignment with actions in the CAP.

In 2025 over €350,000 was approved to a range of climate projects including:

- **Cycling Inclusion Centre of Excellence in Collinstown Park Sports Complex** - project was supported by €9,000 funding from the Climate Innovation Fund (initial funding provided in 2022 for purchase of bicycles, subsequently funded stencilling for cycle training)
- **EnergyCloud** – approved €62,160 to install devices in 220 social houses to provide them with a tank of free hot water, when wind energy ‘curtailment’ occurs.
- Electric **Green Machines** purchased for Clondalkin and Lucan (€91,512)
- Trialling electric zero turn mowers in the public realm
- Myth Busters Energy Awareness Toolkit for Householders funded
- **Awarded REEF Project** - to support the Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone, REEF’s overarching goal is to assist local and regional public authorities in applying the EE1st principle across all relevant policy areas.



The SDCC Climate Innovation Fund assisted the Collinstown Bike Hub which aims to encourage cycling among local youth and adults through a new cycling education program. The project, which was delivered in partnership with Active South Dublin and the Education and Training Board (ETB), received €9000 in 2025 to provide high quality stencilling that illustrates road signs junctions, and pedestrian crossings to create a safe space for participants to learn essential biking skills and understand road safety.





**Climate Innovation Programme**

In 2025 SDCC partnered with Trinity College Dublin and Munster Technical University to offer free sustainability training for businesses. This program, running from September to November 2025, was specifically designed to translate high-level climate theory into practical, bottom-line benefits for our local business community. By partnering with two of Ireland’s leading academic institutions, we provided participants with access to world-class expertise in climate action and systems thinking.

Over the course of three months, participants engaged in a ‘learning by doing’ model:

- **Practical Frameworks:** Instead of traditional exams, the curriculum focused on real-world projects tailored to each participant's specific business environment.
- **Hybrid Learning:** The combination of three in-person sessions, weekly online live tutorials and continuous online support allowed for deep learning without significant disruption to daily operations.
- **Learning Materials:** Access to an online portal, with access to all presentations and further learning materials used within the course, a substantial resource.
- **Collaborative Growth:** By allowing multiple employees from the same company to attend, the programme fostered internal sustainability champions while helping to build a sustainably-minded professional network across the county.

The feedback from the cohort has been overwhelmingly positive. Participants walked away not only with a Certificate of Completion from TCD and MTU - with optional accreditation towards any future degree courses - but with actionable plans to improve efficiency, reduce waste & GHG emissions and save money.



This project demonstrates SDCC’s commitment to supporting a Just Transition for the private sector, proving that environmental responsibility and economic competitiveness go hand-in-hand. We would like to thank our university partners and all the businesses that dedicated their time to making SDCC a more resilient place to do business.

**Decarbonisation Opportunities in the DZ**

Community action is key for the DZ to be successful. Decarbonisation opportunities in community spaces exist across the zone. Projects worked on throughout 2025 with funding from the Community Climate Action Programme, listed below, show what is possible. Not only are the organisations below reducing the carbon they emit, often they are making financial savings at the same time, while creating improved spaces. These projects are a roadmap for future community action in the DZ.

Clondalkin Addiction Services Programme	Energy Efficiency Works - Building Insulation, Windows and Doors Retrofit Renewable Energy - Solar PV Food Growing Project Eco-Friendly Lawnmower
Recycle IT	Community WEEE Recycling Initiative
Citizen’s Information Centre Clondalkin & Oakfield Trust	Energy Efficiency Works - Building Insulation, Windows and Doors Retrofit Renewable Energy - Solar PV
Round Towers GAA	Energy Efficiency Works - LED Floodlights Retrofit
Recycle IT & Oakfield Trust	Energy Efficiency Works - Building Insulation, Windows and Doors Retrofit Renewable Energy – Solar PV
North Clondalkin Community Development Programme	Energy Efficiency Works - Windows and Doors Retrofit
FoodCloud	Increasing food waste reduction project, reducing emissions concerning waste food
ACE Enterprise Park	Energy Efficiency Works - Windows and Doors Retrofit, Retrofit Internal LED Lights EV Charging New Green Space

*Table 4: Decarbonising Projects in the DZ*

### Regions Putting Energy Efficiency First (REEF)



In May 2025 the Regions putting Energy Efficiency First (REEF) Interreg Europe project commenced. The Clondalkin DZ has been selected as the region in Ireland.

Working with Codema funding was awarded to apply the Energy Efficiency First (EE1st) principle to regions across Europe, allowing interregional partners to share learnings on what works best.

EE1st is a guiding principle of European Union (EU) policy that aims to ensure that only the energy needed is produced. REEF is about **consuming less** energy and not relying on more energy supply. The project will work at the regional level using interregional collaboration to:

- Assess the status of the Clondalkin DZ in relation to potential barriers to EE1st;
- Identify and analyse how these barriers can be addressed in the DZ;
- Identify and analyse tools for Good Practices (GPs); and
- Make policy change a reality.

From May 2025 to November 2025, Codema worked with SDCC to produce a territorial analysis of the Clondalkin DZ, which analysed the barriers to EE1st in the region.

These barriers are classified under the following headings:

- Regulatory/Policy;
- Institutional/Governance;
- Financial/Economic;
- Capacity/Knowledge; and
- Stakeholder/Behavioural.

Through three workshops, as well as a survey of relevant stakeholders, Codema produced a *territorial analysis* of the barriers to EE1st in Clondalkin. The first workshop was held internally at Codema to lay the groundwork for

the range of barriers that could potentially impact the DZ.

Following this, a second workshop was held online between Codema and the SDCC Climate Action and Planning Teams on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2025. A third and final stakeholder workshop was held with South Dublin Councillors to discuss their insights on the barriers to EE1st within the Clondalkin DZ and the wider County (23/10/2025).

These discussions provided invaluable insight into the awareness and impediments of EE1st within the DZ and were captured as part of the territorial analysis barriers.

An example of one of the barriers is a lack of awareness of the principle as a cultural paradigm shift. EE1st as a term and principle has not made its way into regulation in Ireland, and therefore, South Dublin, and as a result, is not yet embedded in public consciousness.

Another example from the territorial analysis is the complex nature of the grant process required to achieve and implement energy efficiency measures across the residential and commercial sectors.

The next step in the REEF project will be to share knowledge with the European project partners and identify Good Practices in addressing these barriers, with the ultimate objective of the project being to enact a change in future iterations of the SDCC Climate Action Plan, which will put energy efficiency at the forefront.





### 3. CARO Update

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 5 below.

Climate Action Region	Local Authority function area	Lead Authority
Dublin Metropolitan	Dublin City, Dun-Laoghaire-Rathdown, South Dublin, Fingal	Dublin City Council
Eastern and Midlands	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
Atlantic Seaboard North	Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Galway City & County	Mayo County Council
Atlantic Seaboard South	Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork City & County.	Cork County Council

Table 5: Climate Action Regional Offices

The Dublin Metropolitan CARO has been working closely with the four Dublin Local Authority Climate Teams and Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency, to support the implementation of their Climate 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.



Figure 4: Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs)

Examples of projects across the six key areas of the CARO work programme are included below:

#### 1. Governance and Partnerships

- In adherence with the CARO service level agreement with DCEE and strategic priorities of local government, implement effective corporate governance, budget management and work practices in the delivery of the agreed work programme
- Develop and follow agreed Standard Operating Procedures to engage effectively with stakeholders and strategic partners
- Provide support to the CCMA for the Strategic Framework for Workforce Planning and Delivering Effective Climate Action, 2030 strategy through the justification for dedicated climate action resources and specialist skills within the sector

#### 2. Local Authority Climate Action Plans

- Support Local Authorities in the implementation of their Climate Action Plans, and reporting and engaging with key stakeholders and the public on the progress of their plans

#### 3. Adaptation

- Continued alignment with national adaptation policy through the implementation of climate action plans and the monitoring and reporting on sectoral progress and challenges.
- Promotion of biodiversity and nature-based solutions to contribute to climate adaptation

#### 4. Mitigation

- Work with local authorities, SEAI and other key partners to drive projects and initiatives that deliver on local authorities' own energy efficiency and emission reduction targets.
- Support local authorities to engage with decarbonisation initiatives that improve energy

efficiency, district heating, harness biomass and reduce GHG emissions.

**5. Communications and Citizen Engagement**

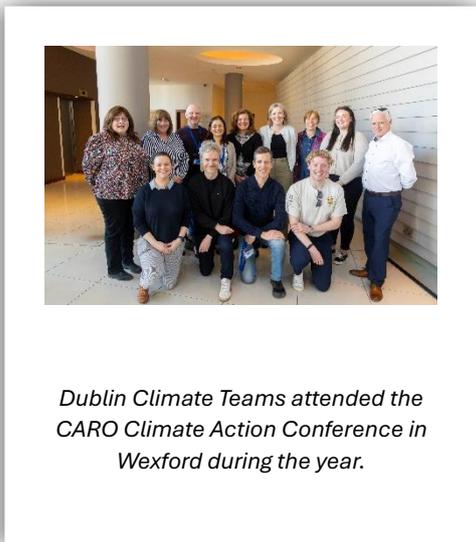
- Facilitate and promote good communication with and between local authorities, with DCEE and other key stakeholders and develop tools and content to assist local authorities in their messaging
- Support National Dialogue on Climate Action and development of a climate hub/network

**4. Training and Education**

- Implement the Local Authority Climate Action Training Plan 2024 – 2027 through the delivery of training programme and courses helping to build capacities and assist local authorities in the delivery of their Climate Action Plans.

**5. Knowledge Development**

- Provide information on funding and learning opportunities for Local Authorities.
- Engage with and support 3<sup>rd</sup> level and other relevant stakeholders & climate action research that is relevant and practical for the progression and delivery of local authority climate action.



*Dublin Climate Teams attended the CARO Climate Action Conference in Wexford during the year.*



A key focus of the recent CARO work programme 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
- *Behavioural 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

**Strengthening communications.** This has been primarily by developing the CARO website which has more than 86,000 users. The most popular sections of the website include projects, research, local authority climate action, training and academic courses.

**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. Significant work was also undertaken with other partners as part of the GAA Green Clubs Phase 1 programme<sup>8</sup>. 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.

# Appendix I: CAP 24-29 Action Updates

## Energy & Buildings



### Significant Energy Users (SEU's)



**% Total Final Energy Consumption:**

Public Lighting: 36%

Transportation / Fleet: 17%

Leisure Centres: 16%

Corporate Office Buildings: 10%

Culture: 6%

**Total for ISO 50001 85%**



## 1,422 Tonnes CO2

Carbon saved by Heatworks in 2025

### Retrofits to Council's Housing Stock



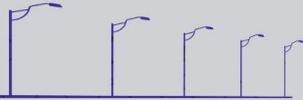
No. of Homes completed under the Retrofit Programme:

98

No. of homes upgraded under Windows & Door programme:

217

### Public Lighting Programme



# 79%

% Public Lighting Stock upgraded to energy efficient LEDs to date:

### Decarbonising SDCC Buildings

- Energy Performance Contracts were progressed to support the decarbonisation of council owned buildings.
- Contractors appointed to install solar PVs on community centres across South Dublin.

Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2025 Updates
<b>Organisational Energy Management and Innovation</b>				
E1	Embed an organisational energy/building management system in SDCC, ensuring compliance with relevant standards, obligations, and reporting requirements, with the aim to achieve ISO50,001.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	In 2025 five Significant Energy Users (SEU's) accounted for 85% of total energy used in SDCC.  <b>Public Lighting 36%</b> <b>Transportation / Fleet 17%</b> <b>Leisure Centres 16%</b> <b>Corporate Office Buildings 10%</b> <b>Culture 6%</b>
E2	As part of SDCCs Energy Management, work with the Significant Energy Users and each Department, to make SDCC as energy efficient as possible.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	Following the appointment of a new Energy Officer, the Energy Management Team recommenced meetings in Q4 to support the Energy Performance Officer in delivering a focused approach on energy management and in progressing ISO 500001 Energy Management certification.  A draft implementation plan and timeline was completed with the aim of achieving ISO certification in 2026.
E3	Complete the Public Lighting SOX Upgrade Programme, for the replacement of all SOX (low pressure sodium lamps) with energy efficient LEDs.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport Traffic / Road Maintenance / Road Safety	Phase 2 of the SDCC Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project is ongoing and will run from 2020-2026.  In 2025 a further 1,876 lights were upgraded to energy efficient LEDs.  By the end of 2025 79% of the public lighting network was upgraded to energy efficient LEDs.
E4	Complete the Public Lighting SON Upgrade Programme, for the replacement of all SON (high pressure sodium lamps) with energy efficient LEDs.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport Traffic / Road Maintenance / Road Safety	

<b>E5</b>	Develop a method, process, or tool, for SDCC to assess the whole Lifecycle Analysis (LCA) of buildings and infrastructure to understand the overall impact during its life cycle.	Full Accountability	Architects	Actions Not Yet Started.
<b>E6</b>	Develop, or procure, a tool to be used for high level assessments of embodied carbon in SDCC projects at design stage and to design a policy proposal that all new Council funded buildings are built to an emissions neutral standard.	Full Accountability	Architects	

<b>E7</b>	Decarbonise, where feasible, plant and handheld tools.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Public Realm	A wide range of plant and tools are utilized by SDCC Departments to support their operations. From heavy-duty machinery such as generators, pile drivers, and ride-on mowers to specialized tools like chainsaws, hedge trimmers, stump grinders, and much more, the Fleet Section is collaborating closely with each department to ensure comprehensive equipment records are maintained as part of the ongoing decarbonisation efforts.
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**Improve Energy Efficiency and Reduce Carbon Emissions in SDCC Buildings**

<b>E8</b>	Progress Energy Performance Contracts (EPC) to deliver energy efficiency targets for SDCC owned buildings with significant energy usage, including the Leisure Centres, County Hall and Library, and Clondalkin Civic Offices.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	<p>In 2025 key milestones were reached in reducing the carbon footprint of council owned buildings including progressing towards new energy performance contracts for six of our highest energy-use buildings and awarding a contract for installation of solar PV systems on libraries and community centres with detailed design completed and electricity supply applications in progress for an initial 11 buildings.</p> <p>In 2025 a technical review of the EPC was progressed (including financial and carbon benefit analysis). Meetings are ongoing with the relevant departments to discuss the commencement and ongoing management of the EPC. Funding request submitted to SEAI – 75% of the approved funding is being paid to SDCC in January 2026.</p>
<b>E9</b>	Progress energy efficiency works, including retrofits, in Council owned and operated buildings, such as Libraries and Community Centres, that fall outside of a potential EPC contract.	Full Accountability	Architects	
<b>E12</b>	Develop the sensitive retrofit of historic / protected structures across South Dublin with the aim of improving energy efficiency and building climate resilience.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport, Architects	
<b>E13</b>	Identify and progress opportunities to improve energy efficiencies in Tallaght Stadium and SDCC sports grounds with external floodlights.	Full Accountability	Economic Development Climate Action - Public Realm	

<b>E10</b>	Retrofits of the Council's housing stock, prioritising energy efficiency upgrades in areas that have been identified in the Dublin Region Energy Masterplan as being energy poor.	Full Accountability	Housing	<p>In 2025 SDCC continued to manage and maintain a housing stock of 10,554 units.</p> <p>While all new social housing constructed after 2009 is built to advanced performance requirements, the Housing Department continues to retrofit SDCC owned stock with low energy efficiency rating to a BER of B2. In 2025 98 homes were upgraded to this standard under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. A further 217 houses upgraded under the windows and doors programme in 2025.</p> <p>A series of jargon-free leaflets were designed for householders and social housing tenants trying to understand their new heat pump or just looking for a clearer, roadmap to assist in reducing energy bills and carbon footprints.</p>
<b>E11</b>	Develop tenant energy awareness toolkit to provide climate / energy awareness and training for the operation of the new energy systems installed.	Full Accountability	Housing and Climate Action	

				These pamphlets are available across SDCC in libraries, at climate events and digitally on the SDCC Climate Action website <a href="http://www.sdcc.ie/climateaction">www.sdcc.ie/climateaction</a> . For new tenants, they will serve as an essential "welcome pack" to help them navigate modern energy systems.
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<b>E14</b>	Maximise opportunities to avail of funding sources, to support a range of climate action projects across the County, including European Union (EU) funding streams.	Full Accountability	All SDCC Departments	SDCC collaborates with various partners, including Codema, CARO, and others, to explore available funding and support opportunities for the development of climate adaptation and mitigation projects. A key aspect of this collaboration involves identifying potential sources of EU funding. These projects contribute significantly to reducing carbon footprints and enhancing energy efficiency across the SDCC.
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Alternative Energy Sources; Increase SDCC's Renewable Energy Generation Capacity				
<b>E15</b>	Install Solar PV on suitable SDCC owned buildings, focusing on Community Centres and Libraries, and examine the potential for installation on other assets.	Full Accountability	Community and Climate Action	SDCC identified a list of potential buildings, including libraries and community centres, suitable for Solar PV installation. Several options are currently under consideration by the Council.
<b>E16</b>	Investigate opportunities to install solar panels at Depots (roofs / solar car port etc.), with the aim of supplying renewable energy to offset the expected increase in consumption due to the planned fleet decarbonisation and associated EV charging.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	Procurement for the installation of solar panels on approximately 50 council owned and leased buildings advanced in 2024 and was published in early 2025.
<b>E21</b>	Identify sites or opportunities for trialling renewable energy projects including but not limited to solar, wind, hydro and pumped storage.	Full Accountability	All SDCC Departments	

<b>E17</b>	Maintain the operation and monitoring of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, and progress the further expansion of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	South Dublin District Heating (t/a Heatworks) continued to deliver low carbon heat to current customers under phase one of the project which includes the Work IQ building and 133 cost rental apartments at Innovation Square. This phase is now complete and was supported by funding of €4.9m from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE). District heating network pipes were installed during construction of the Airtown Road extension to facilitate future district heating connections, and funding for a second phase is currently being pursued with DCEE. Engagement to secure additional customers to the network is also ongoing. SDCC is exploring options for expanding the network including potential funding streams.
<b>E18</b>	Develop proposals for further district heating schemes, including Clonburris and Grange Castle.		Architects	In 2025 CO2 savings of 1,421.84tCO2e were recorded and the total amount of heat delivered to customers was 4,974 MWh.

<b>E19</b>	Deliver Arthurstown Landfill Solar PV Project to generate renewable energy for consumption on site.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Waste Management	A small-scale Solar PV project at Arthurstown Landfill site is being progressed. Procurement for the installation, which will generate 200kW of power, providing enough energy to support the sites current operations, was completed in 2025.
<b>E20</b>	Investigate the feasibility of developing a commercial scale Solar PV plant at Arthurstown Landfill site and look to progress any feasible recommendations.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Waste Management	Electricity generated will be used to power ongoing aftercare treatment at the facility.

## Transport

**SDCC Fleet Decarbonisation**

Percentage of Fleet EVs: **6%**

Percentage of Fleet using HVO: **66%**

**EV Charging**

The rollout of public destination EV charging continued with the appointment of ePower as the provider of public EV charging infrastructure across all four Dublin Local Authorities.

**Staff Travel Hub**

Work ongoing internally to deliver a Staff Travel Hub. A PMC has been carried out and discussions with other LA's to develop the best solution for SDCC's needs.

**Active Travel**

KM's of New & Upgraded cycle lanes 2025: **19.8**

Bike Parking spaces delivered to date: **800**

Safe Routes To Schools, School Streets & other active travel schemes delivered in 2025: **9**

New or upgraded pedestrian crossings delivered: **22**

Number of citizens responding to active travel surveys: **136**

Number of submissions from online active travel consultations: **140**

Number of participants in School Cycle Training: **2,033**

The Roads department continues to support NTA Bus Connects to progress design and construction of the Liffey Valley to City Centre bus corridor and the Tallaght /Clondalkin to City Centre Bus Connects corridor scheme.

Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Public Transport in South Dublin</b>				
T1	Facilitate, support and guide national agencies in delivering major improvements to the public transport network, in particular Bus Connects, DART+, Luas capacity and new and enhanced rail stations.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	Planning and Transport	SDCC continues to work with the relevant transportation bodies (including the National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Dublin Bus, Luas, Irish Rail, Bus Éireann, and Road Safety Authority (RSA)) to facilitate and provide support in delivering major improvements to the public transport network, and measures to achieve modal shift.
T2	Work with the NTA and TII to generate information on modal share changes with a focus on modal shift to public transport and active travel, and effectively communicate this information to the public.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	Planning and Transport	<p>SDCC worked to progress a range of projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Roads department continues to support NTA Bus Connects to progress design and construction of the Liffey Valley to City Centre bus corridor and the Tallaght /Clondalkin to City Centre Bus Connects corridor scheme. Contracts were signed for the delivery of the 9.2km Liffey Valley to City Centre bus corridor.</li> <li>Planning for the Liffey Valley to City Centre Bus Corridor Scheme was granted and construction on the 2.5 year project has commenced.</li> <li>Provision is being made for Park and Ride spaces at key transport hubs including Adamstown and Kishogue (construction completed) Train Stations.</li> </ul>
T3	To facilitate the provision of Park and Ride facilities in appropriate locations at transport nodes and along strategic transport corridors in accordance with the NTA Strategy, and encourage the inclusion of EV charge points and bike parking.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	Planning and Transport	

<b>Promoting Active Travel in South Dublin</b>				
T4	Deliver a safe active travel network for people of all ages and abilities through the implementation of the Cycle South Dublin programme, including on-road, off-road, and greenway routes.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Active Travel	<p>In 2025 SDCC continued to progress opportunities to make active travel a safe and attractive option for travelling around South Dublin.</p> <p>A total of 68 kilometres, representing 48% of the planned overall Cycle South Dublin network has been delivered or is under construction. In 2025, 22.535km of new and upgraded cycle lanes</p>

T5	Continue to promote active travel, for a wide range of ages, abilities and journey types, utilising SDCC's active travel website, social media and events such as an active travel promotional ePlatform.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Active Travel	and 61,483m <sup>2</sup> of new and upgraded footpaths were delivered in South Dublin.  Significant construction projects completed in 2025 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dodder Greenway</li> <li>• Butterfield Avenue</li> <li>• Oldbridge Road</li> <li>• Spawell Link Road</li> <li>• Phase 2 of the D24 Network</li> </ul>
T6	Maintain a high standard of active travel routes by ensuring regular cleaning and annual maintenance to encourage ongoing use.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport	The Active Travel Website <a href="http://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel">www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel</a> , which went live in 2022, was the first local authority online resource of its kind. The website is a one stop shop for Active Travel in South Dublin, it contains GIS maps, links to the SDCC consultation portal for all projects and an informative resource for all stakeholders to use to check on our current and future plans. Interactive route maps are available on the site.  The Active Travel Team organised Bike Week, in May 2025, organising a variety of events which highlight cycling as a sustainable and healthy transportation option.
T7	Working with the four Dublin Authorities, identify opportunities for the implementation of public bike sharing schemes, and powered personal transportation, in South Dublin supporting private operators.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	Climate Action, Planning and Transport	In 2025, SDCC Active Travel Team continued to expand bike parking facilities in sports clubs and schools across the county, as well as in the public realm. To date approximately 800 new bike parking spaces have been created in South Dublin.  Work on Rosemount and Bawnogue District Enhancement Schemes were delivered in 2025. Both schemes include several climate elements which aim to reduce car dominance and encourage active travel, boosting climate resilience and biodiversity.
T8	Deliver a network of secure, public bicycle and powered personal transportation parking, to accommodate a variety of bike types across the County, including at schools, parks, playgrounds, towns, and villages.	Full Accountability	Climate Action, Active Travel	As part of the Traffic Section's Street Management Plan 22 new/upgraded pedestrian crossings were delivered and 14 traffic calming schemes were delivered in the County in 2025.
T9	Continue the development of pedestrian improvements, aligning with any Pedestrian Enhancement Plans developed for the Dublin Metropolitan area.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport	
T10	Identify roads and streets suitable for road space reallocation and progress appropriate schemes.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Active Travel	In 2025 SDCC engaged with the public on multiple Active Travel schemes informing the residents of the benefits of these schemes.  Citizens were engaged through a combination of outreach methods including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Leaflet Drops:</b> 600 flyers were distributed to citizens and schools to ensure accessibility to a broad audience.</li> <li>• <b>Surveys:</b> 136 citizens responded to on-line surveys, which allow SDCC to collect feedback from the community to understand their needs, preferences, and concerns regarding active travel options.</li> </ul>
T11	In addition to the statutory and non-statutory consultations, upon the launch of a proposed new active travel scheme, where appropriate and as needed, public meetings will be held and information leaflets will be distributed in the areas informing all residents of the details and benefits of such schemes.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Active Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Online Consultations:</b> 140 citizens submitted observations on active travel projects, where residents were given the opportunity to voice their opinions.</li> </ul> <p>In 2025, 9 schools benefitted from Safe Routes to Schools, School Streets and other active travel schemes in South Dublin. These</p>

<b>T12</b>	Implement the Safe Routes To School Programme and implement the School Streets Initiative and to ensure that individual communications plans are prepared and executed for each Safe Routes to School project. These plans, in consultation with An Taisce and where appropriate and as needed, could include communications to local residents and to the school community before delivery, during delivery and following completion.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	Climate Action – Active Travel	<p>projects provide increased safety for the students and provide a more viable way for students to walk and cycle to school.</p> <p>The primary school cycle training programme was implemented again in 2025, with 36 schools and 2,033 students participating in the programme.</p>
<b>T13</b>	Deliver the primary school cycle training programme.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport	
<b>T14</b>	Ensure active travel schemes and initiatives make walking, and cycling more accessible for all users, including those with reduced mobility, disabilities and the Elderly, to further opportunities for increasing a sustainable modal shift. For example, Cycling Without Age.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Active Travel	

<b>T15</b>	Engage with car sharing scheme operators to increase the number of shared vehicles available in the County, with a focus on the provision of electric vehicles.	Co-ordinate & facilitate	Climate Action	Action Not Started.
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<b>T16</b>	Carry out trials of traffic movements including street closures, one-way systems, diversions and low traffic neighbourhoods to reduce traffic movement in certain areas.	Full Accountability and Influence	Planning and Transport	Permeability options were explored in Rathcoole.
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**SDCC Fleet and Staff Mobility to, from, and during work**

<b>T17</b>	Implement the Council's Fleet Transition Strategy to identify efficiencies and rationalise the need for SDCC vehicles, and to decarbonise SDCC vehicles - guided by the Avoid-Shift-Improve approach.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Mechanical Services	<p>The Fleet Transition Strategy includes five-year and ten-year targets to decarbonise the fleet and ensure the 2030 emission targets are met. In 2025 SDCC continued to transition fleet vehicles away from Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) to help meet our climate targets.</p> <p>A new Fleet Management System was procured in 2024 and continues to assist in monitoring the decarbonisation of the SDCC Fleet (vehicles and plants).</p>
<b>T18</b>	Investigate the potential for alternative fuels for use in larger vehicles, before year 5 of the Fleet Transition Strategy, having appropriate regard to the lifecycle impacts and sustainability of alternative fuel options.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Mechanical Services	<p>Recognising that it will take time to introduce a full fleet of electric vehicles, Fleet Management began a pilot to trial Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in our diesel vehicles in August 2024, by the end of 2025 66% were using HVO.</p> <p>In 2025 6% of our fleet were EV's. Procurement was also completed on electric zero turn mowers.</p>
<b>T19</b>	Deliver an ongoing driver education programme to staff to promote efficient driving behaviours.	Full Accountability	Community - Corporate	<p>A driver education programme to promote efficiency driving behaviour was procured in 2025. The training is expected to be rolled out in 2026.</p>

<b>T20</b>	Aim to reduce kilometres travelled by private ICE vehicles within work hours and incentivise modes such as cycling, electric vehicles.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Active Travel	<p>Following SDCC's achievement of Silver accreditation from the National Transport Authority (NTA) under the Smarter Travel Mark in 2024, work progressed in 2025 to expand sustainable travel options for staff and reduce reliance on private vehicles.</p>
<b>T21</b>	Establish an SDCC Mobility Hub for staff with decarbonised vehicle options to reduce the use of ICE vehicles.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Corporate	<p>In 2025 the business case for a Staff Travel Hub was approved and a dedicated working group was established to advance the project. During the year, the team engaged with external vendors and neighbouring local authorities, while also developing internal concepts to identify the most suitable</p>

<b>T22</b>	Assess staff commuting patterns and identify opportunities to promote sustainable and active travel to, and from, work.	Influence	Climate Action	<p>solution for SDCC's needs.</p> <p>A Preliminary Market Consultation (PMC) was undertaken, during which six specialist vendors provided detailed insights into their products and services. This process enabled SDCC to curate a solution that balances versatility with ease of use and is well aligned with the organisation's operational requirements.</p> <p>Staff also participated in the NTA's workplace Leap Card pilot to encourage staff who normally drive to work to use public transport instead. We are awaiting the final report to be issued.</p>
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Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging				
<b>T23</b>	Implement the Dublin Local Authority Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, (aligning with the National EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022- 2025).	Full Accountability	Climate Action	<p>The Dublin local authorities continue to engage with Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI), on implementing the Dublin Local Authority Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy 2022-2030.</p> <p>In 2024 ePower was announced as the provider of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure across all four Dublin local authorities. Following a protracted procurement and approval process, the DLA's are awaiting final approval to progress 50 public electric vehicle charging sites across Dublin.</p>
<b>T24</b>	For privately owned EV charge points, create an SDCC Policy & Standards Guidance for the installation of electric vehicle charge points in the public realm.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport	<p>Work continued on developing Best Practice Guidance for homeowners seeking to install electric vehicle charge points in the public realm. This phase focused on broad stakeholder engagement, including collaboration with the other Dublin Local Authorities.</p>

Roads Construction, Maintenance, & Infrastructure				
<b>T25</b>	In road construction projects, minimise the use of virgin materials and promote the use of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) or low carbon alternatives.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport	<p>SDCC's Roads Section continued to examine opportunities to reduce carbon emissions associated with future road maintenance activities. Several trial projects were undertaken to assess the potential for lower-carbon approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A lower-carbon road construction trial was completed on the Outer Ring Road in partnership with Roadstone. The results, including detailed analysis and quantified carbon savings, are awaited.</li> <li>Thermal patching was trialed in 2025; however, the efficiency and carbon-reduction benefits achieved were below the levels anticipated.</li> </ul>
<b>T26</b>	Review Roads Maintenance Process and materials for potential carbon reduction impact.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport	
<b>T27</b>	Maximise use of renewable energy for road infrastructure including lights, signs and street furniture.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport	
<b>T28</b>	Promote the use of alternative systems for the treatment of roads during cold weather.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport	
<b>T29</b>	Introduce process efficiencies/flexibility in the treatment of roads during cold weather to reduce number of call outs required.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport	
<b>T30</b>	When surveying existing road infrastructure, include for identification of climate vulnerabilities, such as flooding and urban heat island effect.	Full	Planning and Transport	

## Flood Resilience



### Flood Alleviation Schemes Status

**River Poddle** - Ongoing, works throughout 2025. ICW, Flow Control Structure & Impoundment area completed. For more information go to [www.poddlefas.ie](http://www.poddlefas.ie)

**Whitechurch Stream** - 55% of works have been installed to date. For more information go to [www.whitechurchfas.ie](http://www.whitechurchfas.ie)

**River Camac** - Hydraulic modelling & analysis re-commenced in 2025. For more information go to [www.camacfas.ie](http://www.camacfas.ie)



### Fish Barrier Removal Schemes

SDCC is working with stakeholders to identify issues and possible projects to remove fish barriers in two rivers in Dublin.



Total number of Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW's) installed in SDCC

**4**



Number of times the Severe Weather Emergency Response Plan was implemented in 2025

**4**



### Improved Maintenance

Tonnes of waste cleared from gullies:

**3,219**

Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Adaptation to increased Flood Events (Flood Defence, Monitoring, Flood Response)</b>				
F1	Review and update Major Emergency Management Response plans, SDCC policies or relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), with national Legislation and regulation on Climate Change adaptation and flood management, as required/annually.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Major Emergency Management	SDCC Major Emergency Management Response plans to deal with severe weather and other events, are reviewed on an ongoing basis with updates of plans, policies and procedures made, as required.  SDCC continued to work collaboratively and in partnership with a range of key stakeholders, to address regional flood management issues. Key staff receive Daily Flood Guidance Statements issued by Met Eireann's Flood Forecast Centre, with general Weather Warnings sent to staff who subscribe to the Met Eireann Weather Warning Portal. Distribution of the various warnings to SDCC staff is managed by the Severe Weather Flood Liaison Manager (SWLFM).
F2	Ensure recording of flood events (fluvial and pluvial) and major climate events, utilising a GIS based system, to consistently capture locations, impacts, response resources, costs etc., to facilitate the development of climate adaptation measures.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	SDCC is part of the East Region Working Group for Major Emergency Management and Senior SDCC Staff sit on the East Region Steering Group for Major Emergency Management – allowing for engagement with the principal responders and other LAs. Staff attend the National Coordination Briefing during weather alerts, as required.
F3	Ensure annual update of the specific risks to service provision in each SDCC Department that may be impacted by Climate Change, building on the Climate Change Risk Assessment developed for the Climate Action Plan.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Major Emergency Management	In 2025 the Severe Weather Emergency Response Plan was implemented 4 times: 24/01/25 Storm Eowyn (red wind warning) 20/07/25 Status orange rainfall warning 14/11/25 Storm Claudia (orange rainfall warning) 09/12/25 Storm Bram (orange wind warning)
F4	Engage regularly with neighbouring Local Authorities and other relevant organisations, on regional flood management issues, and support the ongoing implementation of flood forecasting systems.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	

<b>F5</b>	Progress Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) in conjunction with the OPW – including the River Poddle FAS, the River Camac FAS and the Whitechurch Stream FAS.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	Progress on three Flood Alleviation Schemes in SDCC continued in 2025: The projects are being delivered in conjunction with the OPW.  <b>Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme</b> - Works commenced in April 2024 with a 36-month programme. Once the scheme is completed it will provide flood protection to over 900 residential properties and 50 commercial properties in a 1 in 100-year rainfall event. A new flow control structure and impoundment area was completed in Tymon Park. The impoundment area provides the main flood defence benefit of the scheme by enabling up to 65,000m <sup>3</sup> of water to be stored in the lake there during a rainfall event increasing capacity in the downstream river channel. <b>Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme</b> – Over 55% of works were completed on the scheme which commenced in April 2023. The Whitechurch Stream was identified under the Dodder Catchment Based Flood Risk Assessment and Management as being liable to flooding during a one in one-hundred-year flood event - putting homes, businesses and lives at risk. The €2 million investment will protect over 170 properties including 150 homes and up to 20 businesses. <b>River Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme</b> – hydraulic modelling and analysis commenced on the Camac FAS.  A Minor Works Programme is delivered annually to resolve flooding issues in the County.
<b>F6</b>	Identify and progress minor works schemes to resolve recurring flood issues, where possible, ensuring the schemes are designed and implemented to include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) / nature-based solutions / protection of biodiversity and avoidance of habitat fragmentation.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	

**Implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) / Surface Water Management in South Dublin**

<b>F8</b>	Drive the implementation of SuDS in SDCC Capital projects, including new builds, retrofits etc, and monitor the level of implementation.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	SDCC continues to integrate SuDS into the design and delivery of public infrastructure as a key measure for climate adaptation and improved water management.  SuDS features in the recently completed District Enhancement Schemes at Rosemount and Bawnogue included rain gardens engineered to manage surface water runoff at source by mimicking natural hydrology. The primary design intention is to attenuate, treat, and infiltrate stormwater rather than convey it rapidly to piped drainage networks.
<b>F9</b>	Promote and encourage community involvement in the retrofit of SuDS or development of natural flood management measures, in existing housing/developments/local areas.	Advocate	Climate Action	A new 2,000m <sup>2</sup> Integrated Constructed Wetland was completed on the River Poddle in Tymon Park. ICWs are shallow, multi-celled wetlands that mimic the biological functions of naturally occurring wetlands to improve water quality and enhance biodiversity. This is the fourth ICW to be delivered in SDCC.
<b>F10</b>	Identify 4 No. Demonstration Sites or Pilot schemes to monitor different SuDS projects, demonstrating how to combine SuDS/flood attenuation systems with existing land uses.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Public Realm Capital Projects	
<b>F11</b>	Promote and encourage the implementation of SuDS to external Developers – ensure implementation of SuDS in Planning applications in line with SDCC SuDS Guidance.	Influence	Climate Action	

**Improved Maintenance of SuDS and the Stormwater, Surface Water, and Road Gully Networks**

<b>F12</b>	Improve the general maintenance plan for the stormwater and surface water network, with the aim to link to flood event forecasting and incorporate data of locations with known issues.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	The Newcastle, Rathcoole, and Saggart Surface Water Study was completed. It is now being reviewed by SDCC to assess maintenance and improvement requirements. Initial desilting, cleaning and improvement works took place.  Screens continue to be checked and cleaned to reduce the risk of flooding. Telemetry and CCTV updated to allow access to new staff members in Natural Water and Flood Resilience section.
<b>F13</b>	Review Gully maintenance plan and operations for improvements, considering areas with recurring issues and smart technology opportunities.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	SDCC continues to maintain gullies across South Dublin and in 2025 contractors cleared 3219 tonnes of waste from gullies.
<b>F14</b>	Develop an improved maintenance plan for SuDS assets that are taken in charge by SDCC, ensuring their continued operation.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	
<b>F15</b>	Maintenance of lakes and wetlands to increase storage capacity during severe weather events, where necessary.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	

## Nature Based Solutions

### Supporting Green Infrastructure



Trees Planted in 2025: **3,572**

Mini Woodland trees in 2025: **9,850**

Hectares of Biodiverse Meadowland Maintained: **210**

### Natural Water Quality

Water samples taken in 2025: **505**

DURL Misconnection assessments: **31**

Farm Inspections in catchments at risk **41**

### Maintaining our Street Tree Stock



No. of trees on Arbotrack: **75,000**

Tonnes of Carbon Sequestered on Arbotrack to date: **22,630**

### Biodiversity Action Plan



Actions Completed or on a continual basis:

**13 of 19**

Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Sequestering Carbon</b>				
N1	Manage our tree mapping data and ensure the maintenance of our tree management system to evaluate carbon sequestration data associated with trees in South Dublin and investigate further opportunities for carbon sequestration where possible.	Full Accountability	Climate Action-Public Realm	<p>SDCC continues to use dedicated tree management software to support the maintenance of a healthy and resilient tree population across the County. This system enables effective monitoring, planning and care of street and park trees, ensuring they continue to contribute to climate mitigation and biodiversity.</p> <p>The County is home to over 75,000 street trees, which play a significant role in carbon sequestration. To date, these trees have sequestered an estimated 22,628 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. In addition to street trees, SDCC's parks and open spaces are home to more than 125,000 trees, further enhancing the County's green infrastructure and supporting long-term climate resilience.</p>

<b>Supporting Green Infrastructure</b>				
N2	Look to maintain and increase natural meadows, where appropriate, across the county.	Full Accountability	Climate Action-Public Realm	<p>As part of the management of parks and open spaces, SDCC has been increasing land managed for nature restoration. This includes managing extensive natural wildflower meadows and managing areas for natural regeneration. To deliver this successfully mowing patterns were restructured.</p> <p>In 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3572 trees were planted across the County</li> <li>SDCC tree maintenance programme surveyed 14,605 trees, 10,536 trees were pruned</li> <li>210 hectares of biodiverse meadowland maintained</li> <li>9,850 bareroot whips were planted as part of the popular mini woodlands programme in six new locations</li> </ul>
N3	Increase native tree planting across the county. Retain existing native trees in South Dublin, in so far as possible.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Public Realm	
N4	Increase and maintain native hedgerow planting across the county.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Public Realm	
N5	Support / develop small urban 'Miyawaki' native mini- woodlands.	Influence	Climate Action - Public Realm	

<b>N6</b>	Develop an Urban Woodland and Hedgerow Management Strategy and implement plans for the County to enhance, maintain and improve existing woodlands throughout our Parks.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Public Realm	
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<b>N7</b>	Implement a programme of enhancement and expansion of ponds and wetland habitats, to expand areas of water storage capacity and increase sequestration.	Full Accountability/ Advocate	Planning and Transport – Planning; Climate Action – Natural Water and Public Realm	Phases 2 & 3 of the Ponds and Wetlands Survey were carried out in 2022 and 2023 as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan. 15 sites have been surveyed to date, recommendations for improvements and enhancement of water quality and biodiversity at these sites have been made. A new Integrated Constructed Wetland in Tymon Park as part of the Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme.
<b>N9</b>	Expand and refine the evidence base for the County Habitat Map to identify key habitats/locations for nature based solutions and use the data to develop management and mitigation plans for these nature based adaptation projects into the future.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport - Planning	Surveys of habitats and species in the County are on-going. These surveys will assist with the identification of areas of local biodiversity importance. By 2024 three years baseline data on flowering species and pollinating insects was gathered for Tymon and Waterstown Parks and Lucan Demesne. 2) Data on ground-nesting birds and seed-eating birds has been gathered for Kiltipper Park. 3) Wetland Surveys were undertaken for 15 publicly accessible wetlands sites.  These baseline data sets form the foundation against which possible future climate impacts may be measured, allowing targeted mitigation measures to be proposed and implemented through the development of management plans for the habitats and species concerned.

<b>N8</b>	Continue to implement Dublin Mountains Makeover with Coillte Nature and the Dublin Mountains Partnership exploring opportunities for native tree planting projects to manage surface water run-off from mountainous areas to reduce flooding downstream.	Full Accountability / Influence	Climate Actions- Public Realm	The Climate Action Team meet quarterly with Coillte and the Dublin Mountains Partnership to identify opportunities where we can work together and to progress items in the Climate Action Plan.
<b>N10</b>	Pilot and co-design a biodiversity inclusive design for a social housing estate.	Full Accountability	Housing - Climate Action ; Public Realm Capital Projects - Architects	
<b>N19</b>	Investigate the potential for nature-based solutions to address the risk of wildfire management, coordinating with the Dublin Fire Brigade.	Full Accountability / Co-ordinate and facilitate	Climate Action - Major Emergency Management	

<b>N11</b>	Maintain and expand allotments for local food production across the County, in accordance with SDCC's Allotments Policy.	Full Accountability/ Co-ordinate and Facilitate	Climate Action – Public Realm	In 2025, SDCC continued to expand opportunities for community food growing across the County. A total of 443 allotments were actively managed during the year, including the development of 29 new allotments at Graydon Park in Newcastle. This project also delivered all associated supporting infrastructure, such as car parking, an access road, electric gates, and the provision of power and water.  SDCC also supports a strong network of 13 Community Gardens throughout the County, providing residents with accessible spaces to grow food, learn new skills and participate in community-led environmental initiatives.
<b>N12</b>	Support the provision of Community Gardens for local food production across the County, in partnership with Community Centres, Schools and other local groups.	Full Accountability/ Co-ordinate and Facilitate	Climate Action; Public Realm and Planning and Transport	

**Addressing Biodiversity Loss**

<b>N13</b>	Support the Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2026.	Full Accountability	Planning and Transport - Planning	SDCC's Biodiversity Action Plan was launched in 2020. The plan is being implemented by the Heritage Officer with the support of an internal Steering Group.
<b>N14</b>	Implement a countywide reduction of the usage of chemicals, such as glyphosate, across all council departments.	Full Accountability	Climate Action; Public Realm, Planning and Transport	The Council endeavours to minimise the use of glyphosate-based products and expects to reduce usage as alternative weed control methods and products become available and established. The Council complies with the requirements of the Sustainable Use Directive, in the use of plant protection products.
<b>N15</b>	Develop a Strategy for the phase out of harmful products such as glyphosate and acrylic paint.	Full Accountability	Climate Action; Public Realm, Planning and Transport	Kildare County Council led on a joint LA strategy for reducing harmful products. SDCC provided funding towards this project.

<b>N16</b>	Identify opportunities to remove culverts to restore urban watercourses.	Full Accountability	Climate Action; Natura Water	SDCC is working with stakeholders to identify issues and possible projects to remove fish barriers in two rivers in Dublin. The River Griffen Hydromorphology and Barrier Study carried out in 2025, and a working group was established.  A Working Group was established on barriers in the Lower Liffey Barriers. Fingal County Council is taking lead on this project with SDCC engineers participating.
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<b>Increased Temperatures and Urban Heat Island Effect</b>				
<b>N17</b>	Identify areas in South Dublin that are vulnerable to the impacts of increased heat effects due to climate change.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	The Dublin Metropolitan CARO Office continued to lead on an Urban Heat Island Study for the Dublin Region.
<b>N18</b>	Implement measures to mitigate the Urban Heat Island Effect in identified vulnerable areas, including the management of existing street trees and future planting to reduce impacts.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Public Realm	

<b>N20</b>	Increase data gathering on the effects of climate change on natural water quality in the county.	Full Accountability	Climate Action – Natural Water	SDCC's routine water sampling programme is delivered annually alongside Water Framework Directive monitoring.  SDCC achieved WFD commitments totalling 72 samples. This involved continuous engagement and coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency.  SDCC collected 169 routine monitoring in addition to the WFD samples in 2025.  The Water Pollution Team also continuing to monitor the improvement of water quality as a result of the DURL project. In 2025, 31 misconnection assessments were conducted in relation to pollution complaints received, of these there was a 13% misconnection rate (2x washing machines, 1x wash hand sink and 1x toilet misconnected).
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## Circular Economy & Resource Management



### Bring Banks



Bring Banks in SDCC: **62**

Tonnes of glass recycled: **5,029**

Tonnes of textiles collected: **590**

### Drinking Water Fountains



**104,676**

Plastic bottles saved through use of drinking water fountains in 2025

(Total of 536,796 plastic bottles to date)

### Waste and Water Management in SDCC



County Hall Mixed Dry Recycled Tonnage: **17.6**

County Hall General Waste Tonnage: **30.4**

County Hall Food Waste Tonnage: **4.1**



New solar “Big Belly” bins installed: **102**

### Reuse in Ballymount Civic Amenity Site



Tonnes of artificial Christmas trees recycled: **7.5**



Tonnes of paint recovered in Ballymount Civic Amenity Centre: **3.9**

Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Managing Waste in SDCC</b>				
R1	Monitor and improve internal waste and water management systems in all SDCC buildings.	Full Accountability	Community; Corporate Architects; Climate Action	SDCC continued to implement measures in 2025 to reduce waste across its buildings and improve the sustainability of canteen services. A dedicated working group—comprising representatives from Corporate Services, Facilities Management, the Climate Action Team and the contract caterers—met regularly throughout the year to oversee progress and identify further opportunities for improvement.  The Sustainable Canteen Committee built on previous successes and advanced efforts to eliminate the purchase, sale and distribution of single-use plastic beverage bottles. The committee also continued to collaborate with caterers to identify additional ways to reduce plastic use. In 2025, single-use sauce sachets were removed from the County Hall canteen, eliminating approximately 32,500 sachets per year.
R2	Work with corporate services and contractors to reduce waste and improve energy efficiency in SDCC canteen.	Full Accountability	Community; Corporate, Architects, Climate Action	
R6	Introduce recycled or eco friendly paper for use in all SDCC printers.	Full Accountability	Community; Corporate	In June 2025, Action R6 was fully achieved, with all paper used across SDCC operations transitioning to 100% recycled content
R3	Identify opportunities to reduce Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste generated by SDCC, and liaise with relevant organisations collaboratively.	Full Accountability	SDCC Depot Managers	Construction and Demolition waste is the largest waste stream in the EU, making up a third of all waste produced annually. The Capital Programme 2025-2027, which was noted at the December Council Meeting, highlights the level of capital works due to be undertaken by SDCC over the next two years. A Waste Management Plan, which identifies the type and quantity of waste generated and a Waste Reduction Plan during construction projects is a required under legislation. The Climate Action Team is identifying opportunities to reduce construction and demolition waste in Council projects. SDCC policies reflect the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030.

<b>R4</b>	Investigate sustainable solutions to the management of grass cuttings. Deliver appropriate solutions identified.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Public Realm	An Anaerobic Digestion feasibility study examining the treatment of grass cuttings and production of biogas from this process was carried out and concluded in 2024. The report highlighted while feasible it is not financially viable as a potential fuel source when compared to alternative renewable options such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO).  Findings from the study was presented to the SPC in February 2025.
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<b>R5</b>	Promote the use of sustainable / natural alternative materials in new and upgraded playspaces, teenspaces and in the infill of synthetic grass pitches.	Full Accountability	Climate Action; Public Realm, Housing	Action not yet started.
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**Adopting a Circular Economy**

<b>R7</b>	Support and promote the implementation of the targets of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030.	Full Accountability / Influence	Climate Action: Waste and Compliance	The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030, seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation. South Dublin County Council is working on several initiatives that promote the circular economy and aim to replicate the ambition of the Waste Management Plan.
<b>R8</b>	To provide for, and maintain, a network of bring banks in the County to facilitate recycling of materials.	Full Accountability	Climate Action: Waste and Compliance	
<b>R9</b>	Provide opportunities for reuse of materials brought for disposal to SDCC Civic Amenity Facility.	Full Accountability	Climate Action: Waste and Compliance Environmental Awareness	Increasing recycling rates is a key priority of the plan. In 2025 the number of bring centres across the county increased to 62, plus Ballymount Civic Amenity Site. In 2025 5029 tonnes of glass and 3.34 tonnes of aluminium was collected. 17 textile banks collected 590 tonnes of waste textiles at locations across the county.
<b>R11</b>	Identify outdoor locations for recycling bin trial site(s) in South Dublin and deliver a pilot project.	Full Accountability	Climate Action: Waste and Compliance	As Ireland moves away from a traditional “take-make-waste” model towards a circular one SDCC is looking for ways to support the circular economy. We continued to divert non-hazardous waste paint collected at the Ballymount Civic Amenity Site from disposal or incineration; 3.88 tonnes of paint was recycled in 2025.
<b>R12</b>	Identify further areas for the installation of drinking water fountains.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Public Realm	Project reTree saw SDCC work in collaboration with Balsam Hill to deliver an innovative new recycling scheme for artificial Christmas trees. This first of a kind initiative in Ireland began on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of November 2025 and continued through until the 31 <sup>st</sup> of January 2026.  Drinking water fountains prevented potential use of 104,676 plastic bottles.  Solar compactor bins have been installed in Rathfarnham and Tallaght, with further installations planned imminently in Clondalkin and Lucan to provide an initial 102 solar compactor bins. With inbuilt smart technology and increased storage capacity, these bins will support more efficient collection service resulting in a lower carbon footprint for this aspect of our operations.

<b>R10</b>	Develop sustainability guidelines and terms and conditions for any events supported, facilitated, or organised by SDCC.	Influence	Climate Action	Action not yet started.
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Protecting the Environment				
<b>R13</b>	Monitor and enforce waste regulation in South Dublin.	Full Accountability	Climate Action - Waste Enforcement and Licensing	<p>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.</p> <p>In 2025 12,125 inspections were carried out under our annual Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan, exceeding our target number of 10,723 actions.</p>

## Community Engagement



### Climate Awareness Events:



**661**

### Climate Awareness Sessions

- Green-School Flags Awarded: **12**
- Students Reached: **4,789**
- Eco-week Workshops: **81**
- Lunch & Learns: **11**
- Library Events: **344**
- National Campaigns: **8**



- Home Energy Saving Kits: **26**
- Home Energy Kit Borrows: **103**

### Dublin Climate Action Week



- Events: **60**
- Attended: **2,088**
- Reached: **150k**

### Community Climate Action Programme



- Phase 1 No. of projects supported: **29**
- Phase 1 amount of funding allocated: **€1.17M**
- Phase 2 No. of projects supported: **25**
- Phase 2 amount of funding allocated: **€1.07M**

Ref.	Action	SDCC Role	Lead Department(s)	2024 Updates
<b>Engaging citizens on climate change: Deliver a comprehensive awareness programme to empower the citizens, businesses and organisations of South Dublin to take affirmative climate action</b>				
CE1	Deliver climate education programme for primary and secondary schools, including ongoing delivery of the Green Schools programme and Eco Week.	Influence	Climate Action; Environmental Awareness, Community; Library Services	<p>SDCC continued to prioritise citizen and stakeholder engagement on climate action throughout the year. A wide range of programmes, workshops, events and public-facing campaigns were delivered to build awareness and support behavioural change.</p> <p>Multiple SDCC departments—including the Environmental Awareness Team, Park Rangers and Libraries—collaborated to deliver an extensive education programme for learners of all ages. In total, <b>661 climate-related engagements</b> were delivered to communities across South Dublin in 2025.</p> <p>Key achievements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>136 schools</b> participating in the <b>2025/26 Green Schools Programme</b></li> <li>● <b>12 schools</b> receiving <b>Green Flag awards</b> at a ceremony in the Helix in May 2025</li> <li>● Ongoing support for a suite of climate and environmental initiatives, including <b>Picker Pals</b>, <b>Relove Fashion</b>, <b>Composting for Schools</b>, and the <b>Rubbish Film Festival</b></li> </ul> <p>To support transformative climate action within the community, SDCC delivered a variety of engagement initiatives. In 2025, the Climate Action Team launched a new <b>Lunch and Learn</b> series for staff and the public. Across the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>11 events</b> were held</li> <li>● <b>428 attendees</b> participated</li> </ul>
CE2	Deliver Dublin Climate Action Week annually.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	
CE3	Engage with communities and businesses across South Dublin through workshops / presentations, to increase understanding of climate change.	Influence	Climate Action, Community; Library Services	
CE4	Use targeted campaigns to increase knowledge of climate issues, for example, National Food Waste Recycling Week, World Water Day, etc.	Influence	Climate Action; Environmental Awareness	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics included: <i>Energy Calculator with University College Dublin, Sustainable Development Goals Week: Climate Action Workshop, Climate Café, and an Energy Information Clinic</i></li> </ul> <p>Dublin Climate Action Week (DCAW) took place from 12–18 May 2025, delivered in partnership with the four Dublin Local Authorities, CARO and Codema. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 events organised by SDCC</li> <li>• Approximately 2,088 attendees at SDCC-led events</li> <li>• Approximately 150,000 reached through promotions</li> </ul>
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<b>CE5</b>	Monitor and develop the Home Energy Savings Kit scheme in SDCC libraries, including developing a youth friendly version, with a potential rollout in schools.	Full Accountability	Climate Action, Community; Library Services	Libraries, as accessible community spaces, play a significant role in supporting climate action and public awareness. Through initiatives such as reuse programmes, clothing repair workshops and swap events, they are well positioned to act as local climate hubs.  To further support household energy awareness, Home Energy Savings Kits were made available for loan across the library network. These kits help residents understand their energy consumption and identify areas where energy may be lost or wasted in the home. In 2025, 26 kits were available across eight SDCC libraries, and they were borrowed 103 times during the year.
<b>CE6</b>	Identify opportunities to utilise libraries in South Dublin as climate hubs.	Full Accountability	Community; Library Services	
<b>CE7</b>	Engage with communities and residents across the County, through local pop-up awareness raising events, on home energy upgrades, funding and other supports available.	Influence	Community; Library Services and Climate Action	

**Deliver a range of tools to inform the public on the issues surrounding climate change**

<b>CE8</b>	Publish the SDCC Climate Change Newsletter – three newsletters per year.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	<p>In 2025, SDCC enhanced its digital communication tools to improve public understanding of climate action. A new Climate Action Storymap was launched on the climate website, providing an engaging, map-based platform to communicate SDCC’s climate initiatives to councillors, staff and the wider public. The Storymap integrates data, locations, imagery and narrative to present climate actions across the county in an interactive and accessible format.</p> <p>The SDCC Climate Action Website (<a href="http://www.southdublinclimate.ie">www.southdublinclimate.ie</a>) continued to serve as a key resource for informing and educating residents about the Climate Action Plan. The site recorded 7,694 unique page views in 2025.</p> <p><b>Social Media Outreach</b>                  SDCC maintained a strong social media presence throughout 2025, using all major platforms to engage, inform and educate followers on climate issues. Regular updates, campaign messages and event promotions were shared to broaden public awareness and participation.</p> <p>Climate-related posts in 2025 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook: 163 posts</li> <li>• Instagram: 110 posts</li> <li>• Twitter: 173 posts</li> <li>• LinkedIn: 20 posts</li> </ul>
<b>CE9</b>	Maintain and develop the SDCC Climate Action Website.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	
<b>CE10</b>	Use SDCC Social Media platforms to disseminate climate messages.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	

Engage with key external partners to deliver programmes and campaigns to increase knowledge of climate issues				
<b>CE11</b>	Support the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's (SEAI) Sustainable Energy Communities Programme in South Dublin by working with the Local Mentor. Where specific supported energy efficiency and renewable energy projects will not lead to unintended negative environmental effects in a local community.	Influence	Climate Action	SDCC collaborates with a wide range of external partners to deliver impactful programs and campaigns aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of climate change. These partnerships play a crucial role in amplifying SDCC's efforts to educate the community and drive meaningful action on climate issues.  Programmes such as the Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) and GAA Green Clubs aim to embed climate action in our communities.
<b>CE12</b>	Work with local clubs to implement GAA Green Clubs.	Influence /advocate	Climate Action	In 2025 there were 13 SECs in South Dublin. 5 were actively working through various stages of the Programme, for example, tendering for the creation of Energy Masterplans in collaboration with the local energy mentor. These masterplans are the basis for identifying climate positive actions that can be undertaken.  In 2025, GAA clubs were invited to apply to participate in Phase 3 of the GAA Green Clubs Programme. Of the 17 GAA clubs in SDCC, 5 clubs are part of the Green Club Programme, 4 of which made applications for funding to Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP). Prior to this, 2 of these clubs, Round Tower and St. Annes, delivered Phase 1 CCAP Projects in 2025, working on energy actions such as installing solar panels and retrofitting floodlighting to LED.
<b>CE13</b>	Continue to support the Zero Together initiative through ongoing collaboration and stakeholder engagement to ensure alignment and implementation of SDCC's Climate Action Plan and the Zero Together roadmap to 2030.	Influence	Climate Action	

<b>CE14</b>	Participate in the Council's Culture and Creativity Team to identify opportunities to work with local educational and arts organisations to consider climate action in their programmes.	Influence, Advocate	Climate Action	The Climate Action Co-ordinator participated in the Council's Culture and Creativity Team, ensuring that climate action is not only embedded in the current and future strategies, but also that artists consider climate as a source of inspiration in their works. The Team met throughout 2025, reinforcing the importance of creative and cultural contributions to climate action.
<b>CE24</b>	Work in collaboration with artists, and in partnership with the SDCC Climate Action Team, to develop creative art initiatives that engage the population of the county in conversations about climate action.	Full Accountability	Community: Arts Office	Climate Action assisted the Arts Office in commissioning Public Arts projects as part of In Context 5, part of SDCC's Public Art Programme 2023–2025 under the Per Cent for Art Scheme. Five projects with 15 artists scheduled to deliver four socially engaged arts projects with communities in Tallaght, Templeogue/Rathfarnham, North Clondalkin, Knocklyon, Old Bawn, and Killinarden in 2026.  The theme of the award is climate change and successful projects will be delivered throughout the South Dublin.

<b>CE15</b>	Strengthen existing networks and create new climate change links to encourage businesses to engage with climate action.	Influence	Economic Development, Climate Action	The Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) plays a key role in encouraging local businesses and entrepreneurs to engage in the green transition. Through a variety of grants and support programs, the LEO helps small businesses in South Dublin adopt sustainable practices and drive environmental innovation. In 2025, 21 projects were approved for consultancy support under the national Green for Business programme, and 9 energy efficiency grants were approved, highlighting the importance of supporting enterprises to adopt greener, more sustainable practices that improve efficiency, reduce environmental impact and strengthen long-term competitiveness. SDCC continued to sponsor a Climate Award at the Local Enterprise Awards, which were held during Local Enterprise Week. This initiative highlights the commitment to recognising and celebrating local businesses that are leading the way in sustainability and climate action.
<b>CE16</b>	Engage with external organisations to explore innovative opportunities or initiatives that could be progressed in South Dublin.	Influence	Climate Action	A successful SDCC engagement with farmers event took place in Glenasmole Community Centre, on 15th May 2025 as part of

<b>CE17</b>	Engage with the agricultural community to understand how SDCC can support resilience efforts and sustainable farming practices.	Influence	Climate Action	<p>Dublin's Climate Action Week. Farmers availed of one-to-one discussions with representatives from SDCC's Water Quality Section, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Teagasc and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine.</p> <p>Presentations were provided on SDCC's role in enhancing water quality and ensuring compliance with the GAP Regulations. This provided a great opportunity to inform local farmers on SDCC's role in farm inspections and provide information on the standards required. The engagement activity provided farmers with contact names and details of SDCC staff should they have any queries or concerns in the future.</p>
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**Embed Climate Action within every department of South Dublin County Council**

<b>CE18</b>	Provide Climate Awareness training for all staff and elected members and identify opportunities to embed climate awareness across all departments.	Full Accountability	Economic Development; Human Resources	<p>The Climate Action Training Programme, which is mandatory for all staff, continued to be rolled out successfully across the local authority sector in 2025. During the year, an additional 83 staff members completed the Raising Awareness course, further strengthening organisational capacity to deliver on climate commitments.</p> <p>In addition, SDCC staff participated in the summer and autumn climate webinar series organised by the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) and the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO). The series covered a broad range of topics, including climate finance, the bioeconomy, Nature-based Solutions and Green Public Procurement. A total of 82 staff members attended these webinars in 2025.</p>
<b>CE19</b>	Develop SDCC climate action induction pack for all new staff.	Full Accountability	Economic Development; Human Resources	
<b>CE20</b>	Work with the IT department to identify opportunities where technology could be used to address climate issues, while also leveraging the Smart Dublin programme.	Full Accountability	Digital Services	

<b>CE21</b>	Deliver the Community Climate Action Fund.	Coordinate and Facilitate / Advocate	Climate Action; Climate Team	<p>SDCC continues to support communities in the County through various means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) is funding 28 projects totalling a maximum of € 1,169,000 worth of grant support. Projects have 18 months to deliver.</li> <li>During the year, 14 Tidy Towns groups received funding through the SDCC Tidy Towns Grant to assist with their local activities.</li> <li>Tidy towns groups, residents' associations, and other volunteers organised regular local clean-ups with an estimated 5,532 clean-ups occurring, while Halloween saw 400 bags of bulbs and 221 Civic Amenity passes issued.</li> </ul>
<b>CE22</b>	Support Tidy Towns initiatives which promote climate mitigation or adaptation measures.	Influence	Climate Action; Environmental Awareness	
<b>CE23</b>	Community Department to identify key opportunities to engage with communities throughout the county, working with the Climate Action Team.	Full Accountability	Community	
<b>CE24</b>	Work in collaboration with artists, and in partnership with the SDCC Climate Action Team, to develop creative art initiatives that engage the population of the county in conversations about climate action.	Full Accountability	Community; Arts Office	

**GOVERNANCE ACTIONS**

<b>GOV1</b>	Support the Elected Members and Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) in their leadership role for climate actions.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	<p>Elected Members received regular updates from the Climate Action Team on how the Climate Action Plan and individual projects are progressing.</p> <p>April Council Meeting – Annual Report and Implementation Plan DZ Briefing (13th March)</p> <p>SPC Climate Updates (February, May and September)</p> <p>In 2025, SDCC continued to support elected members in building their understanding of climate action. Councillors were offered a series of climate-focused seminars, including Community Empowered Climate Action – The GAA Green Club Programme and</p>
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				An Overview of Wind Energy: Contribution to the Economy, Climate Action and Future Potential. These sessions provided councillors with up-to-date insights on sectoral developments and practical approaches to supporting climate action at local level.
<b>GOV2</b>	Ensure Green Public Procurement (GPP) implementation in all SDCC tenders as part of the scored quality assessment, in order to source goods, services and works with a reduced climate and environmental impact, with a priority placed on goods, services and works with a neutral climate and environmental impact. Provide relevant GPP training for staff.	Full Accountability	Corporate - Procurement	<p>The Green Public Procurement working group met in 2025 to progress the Green Procurement Strategy for SDCC which aims to ensure that all aspects of procurement reflect the Council's sustainability goals.</p> <p>93.5% of tenders incorporated some form of Green Public Procurement criteria. Furthermore, 76.4% of tenders integrate GPP as a Scored Criterion, highlighting SDCC's commitment to making environmental considerations a significant factor in the evaluation and award of contracts.</p>
<b>GOV3</b>	Ensure that all new SDCC Projects are assessed for the feasibility of incorporating climate actions and measures, with a focus on energy, greenhouse gas emissions, nature based Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), enhancing and retaining Green Infrastructure (GI), biodiversity, sustainable transport and modal shift, EV charging, and environmental protection and co-benefits.	Full Accountability	All SDCC Departments	<p>The Climate Action Plan aims to create a culture in SDCC where climate is considered in everything. In 2025 the Climate Action Team "climate-proofed" a number of plans, policies and strategies. These include Lucan House Masterplan, regeneration of Rathfarnham Castle Stables, Commission for Regulation of Utilities Position Paper.</p>
<b>GOV4</b>	Ensure climate-proofing of all SDCC policies and strategies, including updates through liaison with the Climate Action Team	Full Accountability	All SDCC Departments	
<b>GOV5</b>	To develop a method, process or tool to allow the embodied carbon within proposed new buildings to be taken into consideration, to inform development across the County.	Full Accountability	Architects	Action Not yet Started
<b>GOV6</b>	Develop, or procure, a tool to be used to calculate Scope 3 emissions across all SDCC activities.	Full Accountability	Climate Action	Action Not yet Started

## Appendix II: References

1. **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021:** <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/act/32/enacted/en/html>
2. **Climate Change Advisory Council:** <https://www.climatecouncil.ie/councilpublications/>
3. **Climate Adaptation in Ireland:** [https://www.climatecouncil.ie/councilpublications/otherpublications/Funding%20Climate%20Adaptation%20in%20Ireland\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.climatecouncil.ie/councilpublications/otherpublications/Funding%20Climate%20Adaptation%20in%20Ireland_FINAL.pdf)
4. **Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2023:** <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/climate-change/air-emissions/EPA-Provisional-GHG-Report-Jul24-v6.pdf>
5. **Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050:** [Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050](#)
6. **Ireland's Annual Report 2024 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance:** [Public-Sector-Annual-Report-2024.pdf](#)
7. **National Climate Change Risk Assessment:** [NCCRA-Summary-for-Policymakers Published June 2025.pdf](#)
8. **GAA Green Clubs Phase 1 Programme:** [Green Clubs Programme \(gaa.ie\)](#)