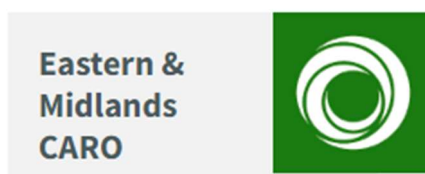




CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL
DRAFT LOCAL AUTHORITY
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
2024-2029



Cavan County Council Leading on Climate Action



This Climate Action Plan has been crafted through the collaboration of Cavan County Council and the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO). Cavan County Council's primary mission is to expedite Cavan's transition to a low-carbon future by employing inventive approaches to local-level research, planning, community engagement, and project implementation in the realm of energy and climate change. The aim is to mitigate the consequences of climate change and enhance the quality of life for residents.

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) were established by the Government in 2018 with the purpose of overseeing and coordinating engagement across various tiers of government. They also serve as hubs for capitalising on the collective experience and expertise in climate action. These four regional CARO offices actively drive climate action initiatives at both regional and local scales, working closely with Local Authorities in their respective regions.

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Foreword



It is with great pride and a profound sense of responsibility that I introduce Cavan's Climate Action Plan. As Cathaoirleach, I have witnessed the dedication and collective spirit of our community, and I am deeply honoured to present this visionary plan that charts our course towards a sustainable and resilient future.

This plan is the result of extensive research, consultation, and collaboration among Cavan's citizens, experts, and local authorities. It is a blueprint that addresses the fundamental pillars of climate action.

Our commitment to a just transition ensures that no one is left behind during this transformative journey.

This Climate Action Plan is not merely a document; it is a commitment—a commitment to safeguarding our county, securing our future, and creating a community that thrives in harmony with our environment.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to this plan, and I call upon every Cavan resident to join us in this vital endeavour. Together, we will create a legacy of sustainability, resilience, and pride for our beloved county.

**CATHOIRLEACH
CLLR. PHILIP BRADY**



In our pursuit of a sustainable and resilient future, we are proud to present Cavan County Council's first Climate Action Plan. This document encapsulates our commitment to address the pressing challenge of climate change, a challenge that affects every facet of our community and environment. As a responsible and forward-thinking local authority, we understand that safeguarding the well-being of our county and its people requires bold, innovative, and collective action.

Cavan County, nestled in the heart of Ireland, boasts a rich tapestry of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and a vibrant community spirit. Our commitment to environmental stewardship and social well-being is deeply ingrained in our identity. With this Climate Action Plan, we embrace the responsibility to protect the unique character of our county for generations to come.

Our plan focuses on mitigation, striving to achieve emissions targets, adaptation to ensure resilience, sustainability, community engagement, and innovation. We value collaboration, welcoming input from citizens, businesses, and community groups, recognising their vital role in achieving climate goals.

This plan is more than a document; it's a promise—to protect our county, secure our future, and build a thriving community in harmony with nature. We invite every Cavan resident to join us on this critical journey, creating a legacy of sustainability and pride.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TOMMY RYAN**

Executive Summary

Cavan County Council has crafted this Climate Action Plan to address the growing challenges posed by climate change in our county and to help fulfil the national commitment of achieving a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a 50% increase in energy efficiency. The primary goal of this plan is to ensure a sustainable future for the people of Cavan while creating a low-carbon, resilient county. The development of this plan has been a result of extensive consultations and collaborations with Elected Members, all council departments, neighbouring local authorities, business representatives, and the public.

This plan outlines the Council's responsibilities in enhancing climate resilience, improving energy efficiency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions across its own assets, services, and infrastructure. The Council is fully accountable for these actions. Moreover, the plan highlights the Council's broader role in leading, advocating, and facilitating other sectors to meet their climate targets and enhance climate literacy.

Section 1 of the plan provides the climate policy context for actions across the county.

In Section 2, we present an overview of the evidence supporting climate action planning in the county, examining the primary sources of emissions and the risks associated with a changing climate.

Section 3, the Framework of Climate Action, defines the local authority's vision and mission for climate action in the county, including strategic goals, objectives, and specific actions.

Section 4 focuses on the Cavan Town Decarbonising Zone, an area chosen as a test bed for ambitious climate action measures that, if successful, can be expanded to other parts of the county.

Section 5 discusses the practicalities surrounding implementation of the plan and its successful delivery over the next five years.

1.0 Introduction

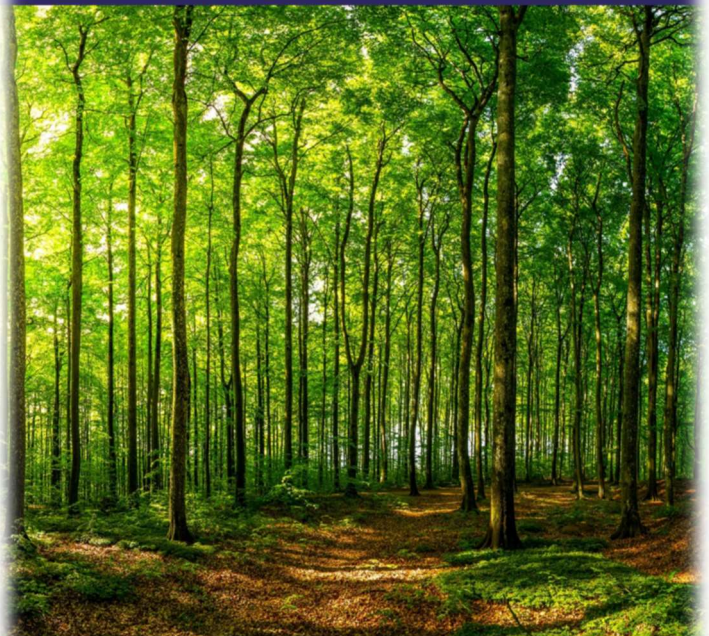
We stand at a critical juncture in our community's history, where the need to address climate change is undeniable. Our Local Authority Climate Action Plan is a resolute response to this defining challenge. It reflects our unwavering commitment to safeguarding the well-being of our residents, preserving our environment, and fostering a sustainable and resilient future.

This is the draft Cavan Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LA-CAP). This LA-CAP sets out how Cavan County Council will work across its services and functions and in partnership with government agencies, businesses, communities, public sector and other stakeholders, to help deliver on national climate obligations at the local level.

Our commitment to a just transition ensures that no one is left behind as we transition toward a more sustainable future. We believe in the power of local action to inspire global change, and we are dedicated to leading by example.

This plan represents the collective aspirations, wisdom, and determination of our community. Together, we embark on a journey of responsibility and opportunity, knowing that every action taken today shapes the future we leave for generations to come.

This action plan covers five years of delivery from 2024-2029



Let our Local Authority LA-CAP be a testament to our shared vision for a brighter, greener, and more resilient community.

Vision



That Cavan County Council will be a climate resilient and low carbon organisation that inspires, leads and supports ambitious action to achieve a Climate Neutral Local Economy

1.1 Climate Change

Climate change is increasingly understood to be the most critical long term global challenge of our time and its impacts continue to be felt both worldwide and at home. The term Climate Change refers to a large-scale, long-term shift in the Earth's weather patterns and average temperature, caused by the release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases such as water vapor, methane and nitrous oxide, to the earth's atmosphere¹.

Greenhouse gases trap heat from leaving the Earth's surface causing warming in the atmosphere, raising global temperatures.

Overwhelming evidence has shown that the climate has changed since the pre-industrial era. Human activities through greenhouse gas emissions generated from burning of fossil fuels for energy and changes in land use are attributed to increased warming. In the 2011-2020 period global surface temperatures have reached 1.1°C above the period 1850-1900.

The global increase in temperatures prompting climate change will cause more heatwaves, droughts, intense rainfall and other extreme weather across the world. These impacts will increase the likelihood and severity of a variety of risks including flooding, migration of people, damage to infrastructure, food insecurity and loss of biodiversity.

Ireland's climate is changing in line with global patterns and the impacts of this are evident through the increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and impacts to our critical built and natural systems.

Climate change is also the single biggest health threat facing humanity. The impacts are already harming health through air pollution, disease, extreme weather events and related trauma, forced displacement, food insecurity, negative impacts on mental health and excess deaths.

For example, notable storms such as Arwen and Barra in 2021, left 59,000 homes and businesses without power. The adverse impacts of climate change can often compound wider reaching social, environmental and economic challenges. This can increase vulnerability and sensitivity to a changing climate and climate extremes.

¹ Refer to Appendix A *Scientific & Policy Context* accompanying this plan for more information on the scientific context of climate change.

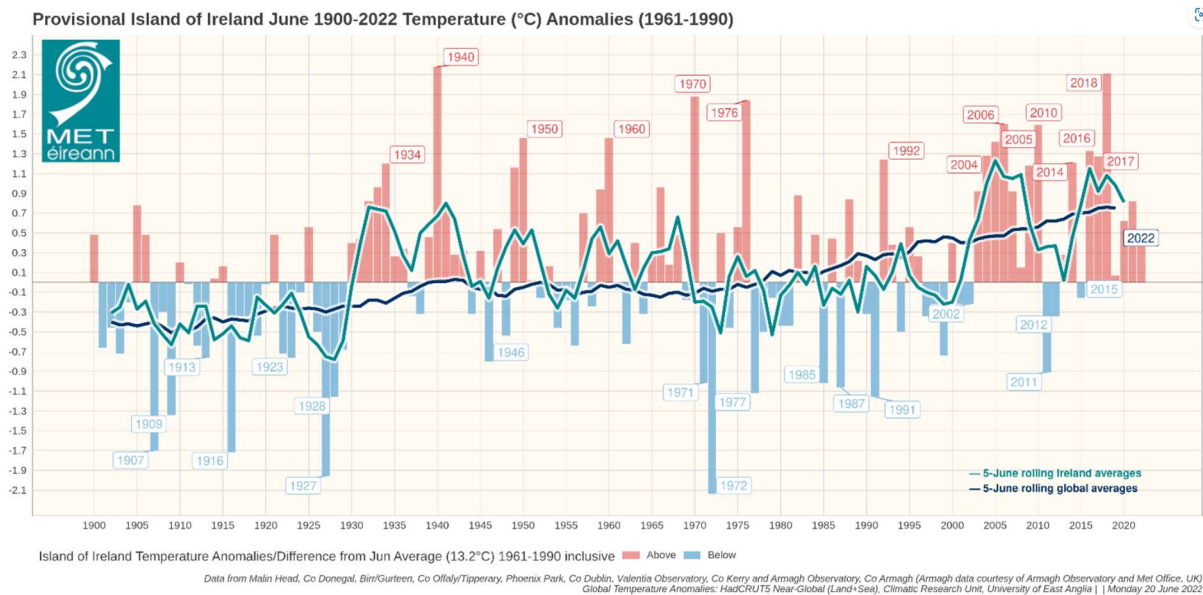


Figure 1. 1 Island of Ireland 1900-2002 Temperature (°C) Anomalies (difference from 1961-1990) (Source: Met Éireann)

Based on observed changes in climate and its impacts, Met Éireann, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other climate scientists, are able to make robust projections on future climate patterns in Ireland and globally. The EPA, Marine Institute and Met Éireann published The Status of Ireland’s Climate Report in July 2021. Future climate projections for Ireland can be summarised as follows:

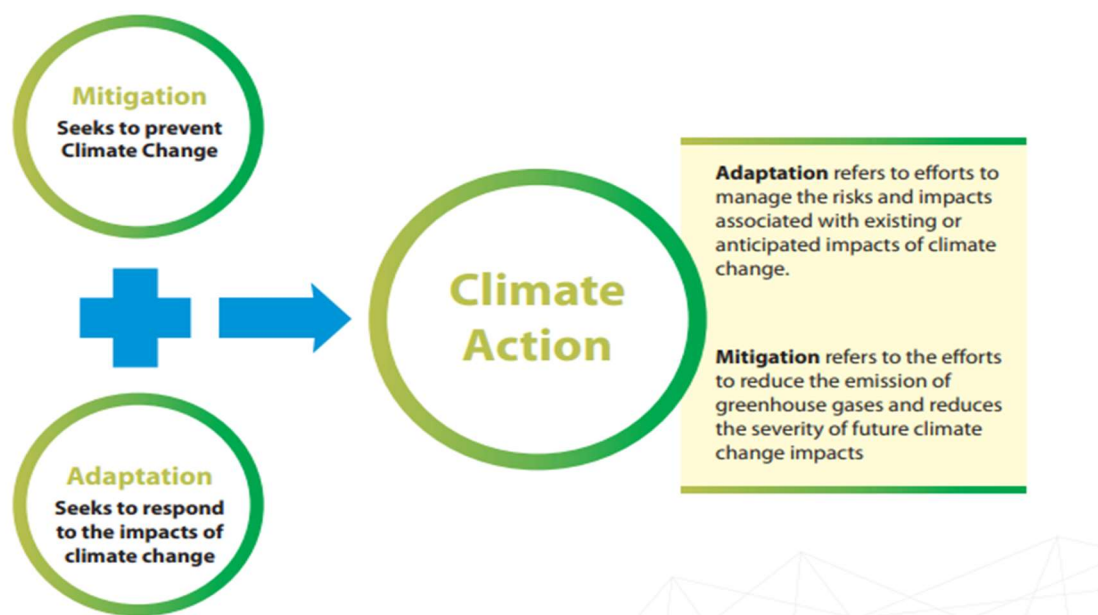
- Climate projections indicate that the climate trends observed over the last century will continue and intensify over the coming decades;
- Temperatures are increasing and are expected to continue to increase across all seasons;
- Significant reductions in levels of average precipitation (rainfall) are expected in Spring and Summer, whilst projections indicate the increased occurrence of extreme precipitation events, particularly during Winter;
- Projections show little change in average wind speed and direction;
- Based on current trends, Ireland will see an increase in sea level rise, similar to what has been experienced to date. Ireland is extremely vulnerable to sea level rise, due to its expansive coastline and the population density that has settled on the coast;
- Increases in the frequency of fluvial (river) and pluvial (surface water) flooding;
- Increases in the frequency and intensity of coastal flooding and erosion;
- Increases in the frequency and intensity of summer heat waves, extreme temperatures and drought;
- Reductions in the frequency of frost and snowfall; and
- An increase in the duration of the growing season (phenological cycle).

The state of Ireland’s climate today and how it may look in the future can be brought together in one simple conclusion. Ireland’s climate has changed relative to the 1900’s, it has undoubtedly warmed along with global temperatures, bringing about an array of impacts that are associated with a warmer climate and more extreme weather events.

1.2 Purpose of this Climate Action Plan

Cavan County Council has prepared this LA-CAP 2024-2029, to set out how the local authority can help tackle climate change and promote a range of mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to help deliver on the national climate obligations and the Government’s overall National Climate Objective, which seeks to;

pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.



More broadly in helping to deliver on national climate obligations the plan also assists to:

- Signal Cavan County Council’s commitment to address climate change and the environmental, social and economic challenges.
- Help communities living in Cavan to understand and effectively respond to climate change impacts.

- ➔ Support Cavan County to transition to a climate neutral local economy where activities don't have a negative impact on the climate.
- ➔ Ensure Cavan makes a meaningful contribution towards national and global climate action targets under the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.
- ➔ Position the County to stay competitive and attractive to live, work and visit in the transition to climate neutrality.
- ➔ Demonstrate leadership through influence, coordination facilitation, raising awareness, advocacy and cultivating necessary partnerships.
- ➔ Support the Cavan Town Decarbonising Zone (DZ) as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures.

This LA-CAP has been prepared in accordance with the [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development \(Amendment\) Act 2021](#) and the [Local Authority LA-CAP Guidelines](#), published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in March 2023, and has taken account of relevant national climate legislation and policy

1.3 Focus of this Climate Action Plan

This LA-CAP assumes an organisational focus as well as a countywide focus on climate action.

The plan sets out how Cavan County Council will be responsible for enhancing climate resilience, increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, across its own assets, services and infrastructure, to which it is fully accountable for, whilst also demonstrating a broader role of influencing, advocating and facilitating other sectors, to meet their own climate targets and ambitions. This is necessary to ensure that the environmental, social and economic benefits that come with climate action, can be fully realised².

This presents an opportunity for Cavan County Council to consider our role as a facilitator and an enabler in confronting the challenges of climate change. We have a key role to play as an influencer within County Cavan, working with the wider community and local businesses to promote positive climate action.

² Please refer to Appendix A *Scientific & Policy Context* accompanying this plan, describes and illustrates the the scope of the local authority's responsibility on climate action.

Cavan County Council will work to influence, support and enable others to achieve their own targets and climate ambitions:

51% Society wide **Emission Reduction** target by 2030.



Net Zero by no later than end of 2050.

Cavan County Council will reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions and improve its energy efficiency in line with national targets for local authorities:

51% **Emission Reductions** by 2030 compared to 2018 baseline.

50% **Energy Efficiency Improvement** by 2030 compared to 2009 baseline.

1.4 Co-Benefits of climate action

The benefits of climate action extend far beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing climate risks, as depicted in figure 1.0.

Climate co-benefits are beneficial outcomes from action that are not directly related to addressing climate change through the reduction of emissions. Such co-benefits include improved air quality, healthier communities, energy efficiency, and tree planting measures, green job creation, biodiversity conservation and improvement through expansion of green space and public health benefits from active travel. These co-benefits underscore that climate action is not only an environmental imperative but also a pathway to healthier, more prosperous, and equitable societies.

	Greater and improved resource efficiency - food, water, energy
	Improved Air Quality
	Job Creation & New Skills
	Improved Environmental Quality
	Improved Health & Wellbeing
	Resilient & Empowered communities
	Enhanced Biodiversity
	Improved access to public transport
	Improved management of waste resources

Figure 1. 2 Co - Benefits of pursuing climate action

Climate action that delivers co-benefits can help maximise opportunities to address multiple social, environmental and economic challenges and part of the role of delivering this plan will be to glean positive effects. Cavan County Council is committed to ensuring that this LA-CAP works to derive as many co-benefits as possible.

1.5 Accompanying Information

This plan is informed and supported by robust evidence base with the most up-to-date scientific information, data on emissions, grounded risk and vulnerability assessments, stakeholder contributions and environmental assessments, to help shape and inform actions. Accompanying this plan are 10 no. Appendices providing distinct elements of the evidence base and environmental assessments that have informed the plan.

This LA-CAP should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Appendices:

Appendix A Climate Science & Policy Context

This document sets out the extensive background and policy context to the development of this plan, providing an overview of Climate Change, its impact globally and nationally as well as the policy responses at the global, EU and national levels.

Appendix B Summary Report on Evidence Base

The LA-CAP must be underpinned by a robust evidence base detailing sources of emissions as well as the current and future climate-related risks faced by the local authority. This report provides a summary of the evidence base developed in preparation of the LA-CAP for Cavan County Council.

Appendix C Climate Mitigation Assessment/ Baseline Emissions Inventory

This document highlights the sources of GHG emissions within the broader administrative area of Cavan County Council as well as emissions from sources within the full control of Cavan County Council.

Appendix D Climate Mitigation Assessment/ Baseline Emissions Inventory, Cavan Town DZ

This document identifies the source of GHG emissions from within Cavan Town as the identified Decarbonising Zone within the County.

Appendix E Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)

The CCRA provides an evidence base and assessment of Cavan's climate change risks and impacts on the delivery of services by Cavan County Council.

Appendix F Summary Report on Stakeholder Engagement

The purpose of this report is to set out the initial strategic direction for the new LA-CAP in the form of draft high-level actions and associated outcomes. The report also outlines the details of the activities, events and meetings that were undertaken by Cavan County Council as part of stakeholder

engagement process, which was used to identify key opportunities, secure buy in of key stakeholders and to generate a sense of shared ownership for the actions.

Appendix G – Decarbonising Zone Register of Opportunities & Action Plan

This is a strategic document that outlines a register of opportunities, specific actions, timelines, responsible parties, and resources needed to achieve carbon emissions reduction goals within a designated area. It serves as a roadmap for transitioning to cleaner, more sustainable practices and technologies to combat climate change effectively.

Appendix H– Co-benefits Health & Wellbeing

This document outlines the health co-benefits of taking climate action including active travel, healthy diet, cleaner air, home retrofitting and sustainable tourism.

Appendix I Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report

This document details the systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making.

The LA-CAP is accompanied by an Environmental Report, prepared in accordance with the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004 as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011) for Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Appendix J Natura Impact Report

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) place an obligation on competent authorities to consider the effects of every plan and project on its own or in combination with other plans or projects on one or more European sites (Natura 2000 sites) through a process known as Appropriate Assessment. Natura sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and species. A formal process of Appropriate Assessment was carried out as part of the preparation of this LA-CAP. In accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, a Stage 2 Natura Impact Report accompanies this plan.

1.6 Structure of this Climate

Action Plan

This LA-CAP has taken into full consideration international and national climate change policy and legislation, the most up-to-date knowledge on current characteristics of climate change as well as its impacts and projections for the future. In showing the outcome of this process, this LA-CAP is set out in five sections:

SECTION HEADINGS	1. Introduction
	2. Evidence-based Climate Action
	3. Framework of Climate Actions
	4. Cavan Town Decarbonising Zone
	5. Implementation and Reporting

Introduces the plan and highlights its context and purpose as well as the co-benefits of implementing this plan.

Section 2 Evidenced-based Climate Action

This section highlights the key findings of the evidence base developed to inform climate action. The evidence base includes climate change risk assessment and emissions baseline profile of County Cavan .

Section 3 Framework of Climate Actions

Outlines the Framework for Climate Action including the Plan’s Vision, Mission, Strategic Goals, Objectives and Actions.

Section 4 Cavan Town Decarbonising Zone

Focuses on Cavan Town as the selected Decarbonising Zone (DZ) including the Vision for the area, strategic priority areas and actions.

Section 5 Implementation and Reporting

Sets out the Council’s approach to implementing actions, measuring progress, the use of metrics as well as how the Council will report on actions over the lifetime of the plan.

Section 1 Introduction

2.0 Evidence-based Climate Action

This section presents both the adaptation and mitigation evidence that forms the basis of Cavan's LA-CAP: the County's climate vulnerability and risk assessment and the greenhouse gas emissions inventory. It also includes information on stakeholder engagement that has helped inform and shape the plan.

2.1 Cavan's context for climate action

Cavan County Council is located within the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Region (CARO). County Cavan is approximately 1,932km² making it the 19th largest of Ireland's thirty-two counties. Cavan is bounded by six counties Monaghan, Leitrim, Meath, Westmeath, Longford, and Fermanagh.

Cavan County's population is 81,201 people (CSO,2022) which represents an 7% increase compared to 2016. County Cavan is a largely rural county, agriculture is the primary land use and remains a crucial part of the economy of the county.

County Cavan is characterised by a drumlin landscape dotted with many lakes and small hills, though the north-west of the County is mountainous with several highly scenic areas. There are several designated sites within the county and the three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are Lough Oughter, Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough, and Lough Sheelin. The River Shannon rises in West Cavan at the Shannon Pot.



To prepare for its future growth, Cavan County is already investing in renewable energy resources, upgrading its infrastructure, and piloting sustainable living projects

Reflective of the county's rural nature and historic economic trends, "agriculture, forestry and fishing" industry is particularly strong, employing 11% of the working population in County Cavan, compared to a national average of 4%. Primary activities include dairying, cattle rearing, pig production, mushroom growing and poultry production. C.7,000 herd owners farming average 50 acres. Almost 57% of farms are located on wet drumlin soils. There is a total farmed area of 144,269 hectares in the county.

Agricultural processing (meat, milk, and broiler) has a combined turnover of more than €300 million annually. This represents 40% of total manufacturing employment within the County. Pig production accounts for €52 million annually in farm sales. The household median gross income for County Cavan is €38,889 (CSO, 2022). The main industries of employment within the region include Professional Services (21%), Commerce & Trade (19%), Manufacturing Industries (16.65%), and Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing (11.32%) (CSO, 2016).

2031 population projections as provided by the NPF Implementation Roadmap states that the population for Cavan County is expected to grow by approximately 12,000 more people from its 2016 baseline. The County will require more housing and infrastructure to accommodate this growing population.

The Cavan County Council Housing Strategy 2022-2028 forecasts a population increase of 4,730 in County Cavan. This in turn indicates a total projected population of 85,900 in 2028 and a total estimated housing requirement for Cavan of 3,996 units over the plan period 2022-2028, the equivalent of 666 units per annum.

Cavan County Council recognises that the demands of the local economy and the growing demographic profile need to align with requirements to plan sustainably by putting in place sustainable development strategies and actively planning for and investing in the transition to a low carbon climate resilient society and economy.

How is County Cavan projected to change?



- **12,000 more people** in County Cavan between 2016 and 2031
- Cavan Town **population to increase by 30%** between 2016 and 2040.
- **3,996** new housing units required by 2028.

RSES Objectives: "at least 30% of all new homes that are targeted in settlements with a population of at least 1,500..., within the existing built-up footprints."

"Deliver at least 20% of all new housing in rural areas on brownfield sites."

Cavan County Development Plan (2022-28)

Figure 2. 1 County Cavan Projected Population Change

2.2 Climate Change Risk Assessment

One dimension of climate action is that we must work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit the impact of warming global temperatures. The second dimension is that we must aim to adapt for unavoidable climate change. This includes understanding risks and opportunities from climate change for business, infrastructure, housing, and the natural environment. There is an urgent necessity to prepare the Council's services to deliver for the needs of the community as weather patterns change.

The aim of adaptation planning is to reduce the risks posed by climate change for Cavan County and increase its resilience. Climate Change Risk Assessments (CCRA) identify the likelihood of future climate hazards and their potential impacts. This will inform the prioritisation of climate action and investment in climate action.

Understanding the risks posed by climate at the local level is an essential first step for Cavan County Council to develop effective and efficient adaptation actions in response to current and projected climate change.

A qualitative CCRA was undertaken as part of this LA-CAP to support the identification and prioritisation of potential future climate risks and to help identify where adaptation actions could be required. The approach was built on two phases, where both current and future risks and impacts were assessed. The full Cavan CCRA accompanies this plan as Appendix E.³

The assessment was carried out under guidance from the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines from Technical Annex B: Climate Change Risk Assessment.

The first stage involves assessing current climate risks and impacts. By investigating the severity and frequency of past climate events that have affected the County, an understanding of the range of current climate hazards may be ascertained. This first stage exposes the vulnerabilities of the County and local authority functions to the identified hazards.

The second stage is carried out by assessing future climate risks and impacts. This involves an investigation of the climate change projections for Cavan. The projections are based on a robust evidence base and published reports on projected future climate. The results are used to estimate how the projected change will impact the County and local authority functions.

³ Please refer to Appendix E *Cavan Climate Change Risk Assessment*, accompanying this plan for further detail.

2.2.1 Climate Change Risk Assessment Key findings (Observed)

In line with the climate trends of Ireland, Cavan is experiencing increasing temperatures and changing patterns of rainfall. These changes are projected to continue and intensify with a wide range of impacts for Cavan and Cavan County Council.

For the period 1985 to 2022, Cavan County has been affected most frequently by severe windstorms and flooding events (river flooding - fluvial and surface water flooding - pluvial). Heatwaves have also had significant impacts on the County with increased demand for water supplies as well as the impact on integrity of road surfaces. Severe snowfall and freezing events when they occurred, resulted in disruption of transportation, energy, and water supply networks across the county.

The frequency of identified extreme weather events experienced in Cavan County from 2006-2022 is shown here in figure 2.1, as well as a summary of key climate and weather-related changes and hazards already observed in figure 2.2. Examples of impacts from severe weather events in County Cavan examined as part of the CCRA are presented in figure 2.3



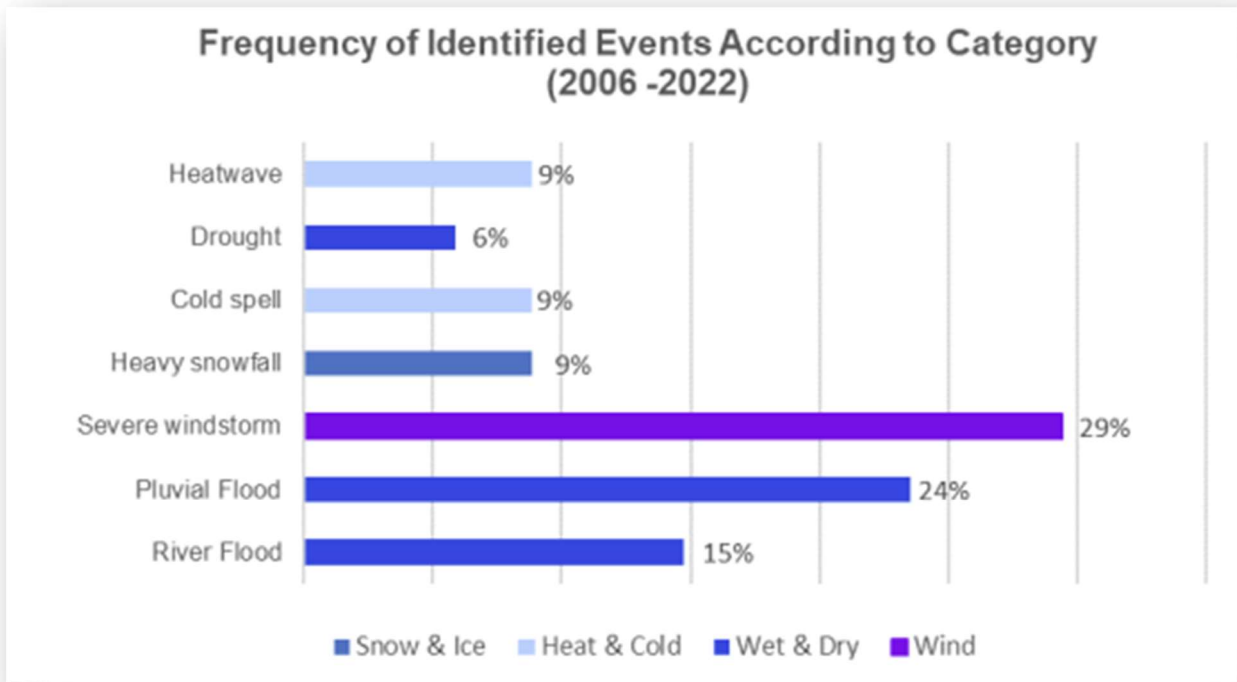


Figure 2. 2 Frequency of identified extreme weather events in County Cavan 2006 – 2022 according to category

Highlights of Observed Climate Change for Ireland and Cavan

Droughts



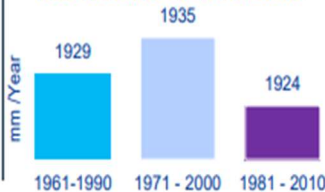
During the 2018 Drought, summer precipitation levels were down an average 43.3% across all weather stations in Cavan compared to the 1961-1990 baseline**



Highest temperature on record recorded on Jul 18th 2022 at Ballyhaise

Rainfall

Average annual rainfall at Cuilcagh Mountains decreased by 0.3% for the most recent period (1981-2010) compared to the 1961-1990 baseline of the station.**



0.5°C

Average temperature increase for the 1981-2010 baseline when compared to the 1961-1990 baseline.**

4 of the driest Aprils (Historically driest month) recorded were in the last 10 years based on records extending back to 1961***



Heavy rainfall in July 2021 led to a landslide on Benbrack mountain in west Cavan, causing an area of peatland 6ft deep and 50m wide to 'slip' down the mountainside***

Figure 2. 3 Highlights of observed weather events & impacts for Cavan



Figure 2. 4 Examples of impacts from severe weather events in County Cavan

2.2.2 Climate Change Risk Assessment Key findings (Projected)

In line with global and national projections of climate change, the climate of Cavan County is projected to change. The frequency of heatwaves, droughts and flooding are expected to increase while projections indicate a decrease in the frequency of cold spells and heavy snowfall.

As a result of climate change, the frequency of extreme weather events is projected to change. For Cavan County, this means that some hazards may occur more often while others may reduce. Table 2.1 below is an overview of projected changes in the frequency of climate hazards for Cavan County by 2050.

Table 2. 1 Projected change in frequency of climate hazards for Cavan County by 2050

HAZARD PROJECTED CHANGE IN FREQUENCY	CLIMATE PROJECTIONS
Heatwaves Increase ↑	Projections indicate an overall increase in average temperature of between 1.1 and 1.6°C for County Cavan. Under a high emission scenario, projections indicate that heatwaves will become more frequent by mid- century and on an almost annual basis for <u>some</u> parts of County Cavan.
Droughts Increase ↑	Summer rainfall is expected to reduce in the future when compared with the baseline period of 1981 to <u>2000</u> , contributing to a potential increase in frequency of drought conditions.
Cold Spell Decrease ↓	Because of the increasing temperatures, a decrease in the number of frost days, ice days, and snowfall is projected for the period 2041-2060 when compared with the baseline period of 1981 to <u>2000</u> .
Heavy Snowfall Decrease ↓	The annual snowfall in the region is projected to decrease <u>substantially</u> by the middle of the century.
Severe Wind- storms No Change →	Projections of storms are subject to a <u>high level</u> of uncertainty. By mid-century, projections indicate that average wind speed will remain like those currently experienced. However, <u>some</u> projections indicate an increase in the frequency of the most intense storms which are currently rare events
Flooding Increase ↑	Projections indicate an increase in the frequency of heavy rainfall days (days with precipitation >30mm) for County Cavan with <u>some</u> areas projected to see a significant increase. This will <u>likely result</u> in an increased frequency of associated river and surface water flooding. Projections of changes in groundwater flooding are currently not available, therefore there is uncertainty in the change in groundwater flooding frequency that can be <u>expected</u> in the future.

2.2.3 Future Climate Risks

In determining future climate risks for Cavan County, projected changes in the frequency of climate hazards are assessed in combination with projected changes in socio-economic development and population change.

The population of County Cavan is expected to continue to grow into the future. As a result, an increasing population will be exposed to climate hazards resulting in a growing level of impact on Cavan County both in terms of people affected and the economic value of damages created.

Table 2. 2 Projected future Climate Risks in County Cavan

Climate Risks			
Flooding	Heatwaves/Drought	Windstorms	Cold/Snow
<p>The risk of existing hazards such as river, surface water is likely to increase as hazard events occur more frequently and increase number of assets are exposed to these events.</p> <p>The future impact and frequency of groundwater flooding is also unchanged, meaning the future risk remains low</p>	<p>Expected to occur more frequently and with potential for a greater impact on Cavan County than experienced currently, as an increasing proportion of the population will be elderly, who are less able to cope with heatwave and drought conditions</p>	<p>Although the frequency and impact of severe windstorms is thought to be unchanged in the future, these events will remain a risk for Cavan County</p>	<p>The impact of heavy snowfall and cold spells on Cavan County remains constant, however, due to the potential decrease in hazard frequency, the overall risk of these hazards is likely to reduce in the future, resulting in less risk.</p>

As a result, projections of future climate risk, projected changes in the frequency and severity of climate hazards are considered in combination with projected changes in population and socio-economic development.

2.2.4 Building Resilience through Adaptation

County Cavan and Cavan County Council are already experiencing a range of climate impacts, including extremes in heat waves/drought and flooding and these impacts are expected to become more frequent and severe. The likely consequences of these impacts include water shortages and impacts to water quality, damage to property and infrastructure and impacts on degradation on the natural environment, habitats and biodiversity.

Building resilience through adaptation measures is especially important when taking action against future climate change and must be considered alongside actions to reduce carbon emissions across the county.

Our aim is to give priority focus to appropriate adaptation measures that will help ensure Cavan County Councils services remain resilient and that communities can be protected from the negative impacts of climate change.

- **Ensure sustained service delivery by all Council functions, through the incorporation of climate considerations and preparedness into emergency and service delivery planning.**
- **Ensure all core Council services are adaptable to a changing climate**
- **Ensure adaptation to climate change is mainstreamed and has a strong foundation in local level policies of Cavan County Council.**
- **Manage and reduce risk of flooding to properties and infrastructure around the county.**
- **Understand by way of continuous review of data and information, the current and future impacts of extreme weather events and climate change.**
- **Promote natural and nature-based solutions to help build resilience.**
- **Support and create climate awareness and resilience in communities and business.**

2.3 Cavan County Emissions Profile

Insofar as possible, it is important that this LA-CAP plays a role in promoting emission reductions across the broader geographical area of County Cavan. To effectively influence, coordinate, facilitate and advocate climate mitigation and support the delivery of emission reductions across the various sectors, an effective evidence-base is required. A countywide climate mitigation assessment gives a ‘snapshot in time’ of sectoral emissions and is used to inform actions that Cavan County Council can prioritise to support, facilitate and enable others to deliver their own emission targets.

A tier 2 ‘bottom-up’ assessment was undertaken to explore the impact of sectors identified as part of the National Emissions Inventory, in County Cavan. These included;

- Residential
- Commercial & Industrial
- Agriculture
- Transport
- Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry (LULUCF)
- Waste and Wastewater

Please refer to the tier 2 assessment that accompanies this LA-CAP as Appendix C for more detail.

The Baseline Emission Inventory for County Cavan was developed using the methodology set out in Technical Annex C – Climate Mitigation Assessment: Baseline Energy Inventory of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines 2023. The Guidelines require that all local authorities develop an emissions inventory for the 2018 baseline year as standard in line with the baseline year for the national emissions reduction objective.

2.3.1 Cavan County Baseline Emissions Inventory – Key findings

The results of the 2018 baseline emissions inventory for the County are presented graphically in Figure 2.5. The total emissions for the County in 2018 are calculated at 2,513.590 tonnes of CO₂e. The sectors that generated the highest emissions were commercial & industrial, agricultural and transport which account for 37%, 29% and 15% of tCO₂-eq respectively.

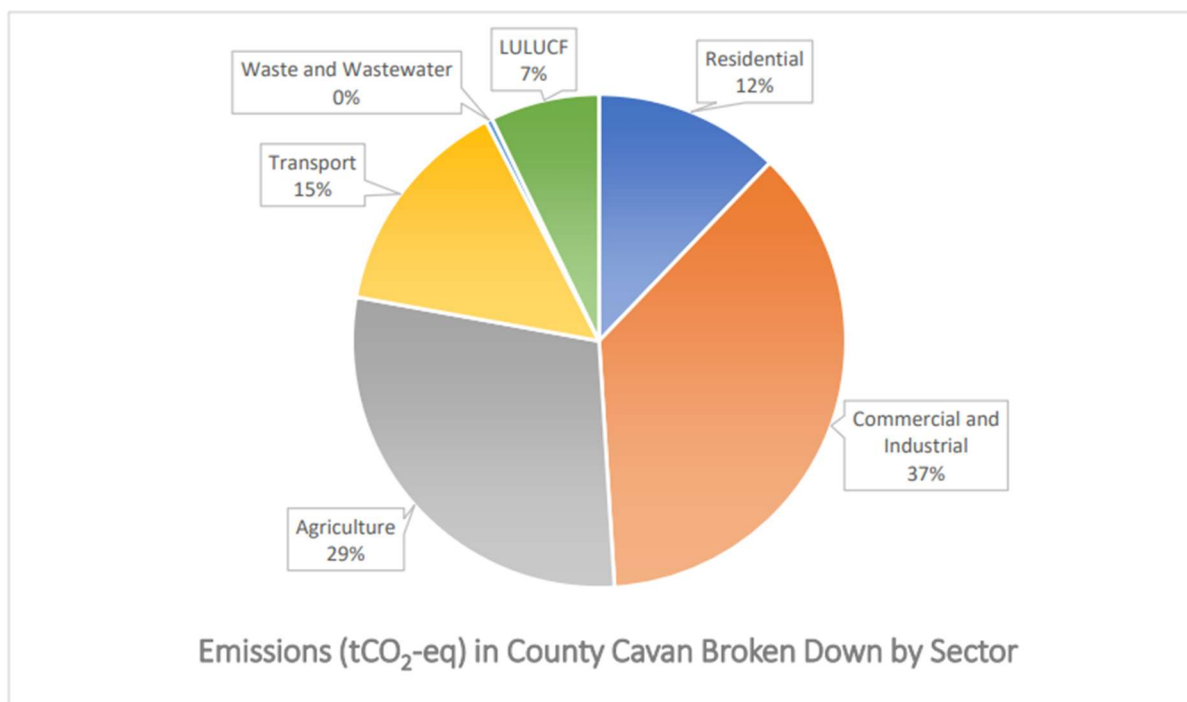


Figure 2. 5 Emission by Sector in County Cavan

2.3.2 Emission sources by sector

Commercial and Industry: The level of commercial and industrial emissions is relatively high in comparison to other counties, including more urban counties such as Dublin City or Fingal. From an analysis of uses it is observed that there is a strong level of food and drink manufacturing, general manufacturing, concrete manufacturing, fuel / oil depots and warehousing in the county.

Agriculture: As the second highest sector of emissions in the county, the emissions from cattle (beef and dairy cows combined) contribute the most in terms of livestock related emissions by far, accounting for 82% of emissions from agriculture in the county.

Cattle produce much more methane emissions than poultry, and due to the higher global warming potential of methane, their impact is much larger on the environment. Emissions associated with sheep and poultry farming (3% respectively) are relatively low by comparison. Emissions from pigs at 12% are relatively significant given the relatively high number of pigs in the county compared to national pig numbers.

Transport: As the third highest emitter, over half of transport emissions can be attributed to private car use. This was followed by good vehicles, and tractors and machinery. The results from the transport emission assessment, highlights the dependency on the use of the private car due to the lack of public transportation, in addition to scale of the haulage industry within the county.

There is a relatively small public transport sector and this is due to the county being rural in nature and having a sparse, dispersed population, compared to counties that have a greater population density and more urban settlement.

Residential: A total of 38,761 dwellings were recorded in Cavan County accounting for 12% of the county total of emissions. The types of dwelling are detached (17,772) semi-detached (15,094) terraced (4,763) and apartments (1,132). The prevalence of detached housing reflects the level of one-off housing in rural parts of the county. These tend to be larger than average dwellings with higher level of space heating requirements and associated heat loss.

The results show that :

- Heating oil is the primary source of main space heating fuel in the county at 65%. (heating oil generates a higher level of emissions per unit of energy compared to the combustion of many other heating fuels such as gas).
- 9% of dwellings use gas as the primary heating fuel. This reflects parts of the county having access to the mains gas network.
- Electricity at 7% is the primary source of main space heating in the county.
- Solid fuels at 3% represent the lowest fuel use for main space heating in the county.

Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry: Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry. The predominant land use in County Cavan is grassland which spans 1567.13 km² across the county. This is followed by cropland at 261.35km², wetland at 189.18km² and finally forestland at 90.05km².

Grassland in Cavan is the land use type that has the greatest contribution to emissions at 222,525tCO₂-eq. This is followed by Wetland which has an emissions contribution of 38,665tCO₂-eq. Forestland and Cropland both absorb more CO₂ than they release.

2.4 Cavan County Council Energy & Emissions Profile

The 2023 National Climate Action Plan (CAP 23) reaffirms emissions pathways for Ireland set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 - to halve Ireland’s emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Relevant targets for Local Authorities include:

- ➔ Local Authorities must improve their energy efficiency by 50% by 2030, compared with a baseline of 2009 (or earlier)
- ➔ Local authorities must also reduce their heating and transport emissions by 51% by 2030, in comparison to a 2018 baseline.
- ➔ Nationally we must reduce GHG emissions by 51% by 2030 compared to a 2018 baseline and we must achieve climate neutrality by 2050 - Local Authorities are obligated by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 to produce plans consistent with this target.

Table 2. 3 Milestone years used in analysis

Key Years	Significance
2001-2005	Baseline year for public sector energy efficiency targets (average of these years)
2018	Baseline year for GHG emissions reduction targets
	Emissions related to the wider Cavan area are also calculated for this year
2022	The latest data from 2022 is used in this analysis, where available, to highlight Cavan County Council’s current status and progress towards 2030 targets.
2030	Year of public sector energy efficiency target – reduction of 50%
	Year of national emissions reduction target of 51% (in comparison with 2018 baseline year)
2050	Year of national target of net-zero emissions

2.4.1 Energy Usage

Cavan County Council is responsible for, and has control over, the types of energy used in the buildings occupied for service delivery and performance of functions, local authority fleet, as well as the public lighting within the administrative area. This section highlights the Council's current energy use and the progress that the Council has made in energy efficiency improvements. The information from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) is summarised in Figure 2.6. The following data is for the most recent period, 2022 and it shows that transport is the largest energy consumer in Cavan County Council at (38%). This is closely followed by public lighting at (35%). Electricity and heating of buildings is responsible for (27%) of our total energy usage. Cavan County Council's electricity usage is mainly due to the large amount of electricity used in public lighting and the Council's buildings and facilities. The use of diesel in fleet vehicles makes up the majority of the transportation emissions. The use of heating oil for space heating in Council buildings is the largest contributor to the thermal emissions. Through a host of energy saving initiatives and measures, Cavan County Council has reduced its overall energy consumption by 30.5% of the 50% target.

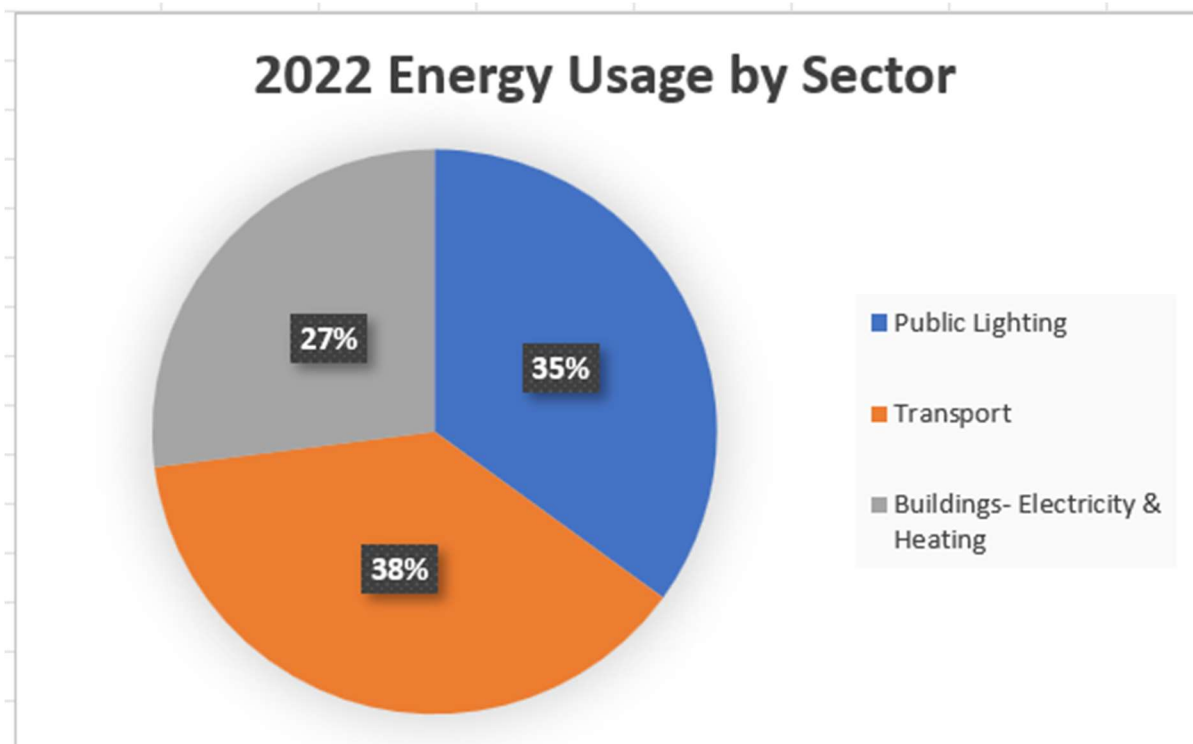


Figure 2. 6 Energy Consumption Cavan County Council in 2022

2.4.2 Carbon Emissions

Data from the period 2022 was also used to outline Cavan County Council's current carbon emissions. Among the Council's total emissions of 2,305 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (tCO₂), electricity was the most significant emitter at 63%. This was followed by transport and heating each contributing 32% and 5% respectively. A graphical representation of this data is presented in figure 2.7. Through a host of carbon reduction measures and initiatives, Cavan County Council has reduced its GHG emissions by 14% of the 51% target to date. The Council will take the actions required to reduce emissions from these sources to support the national climate objective and show leadership within the community on climate action.

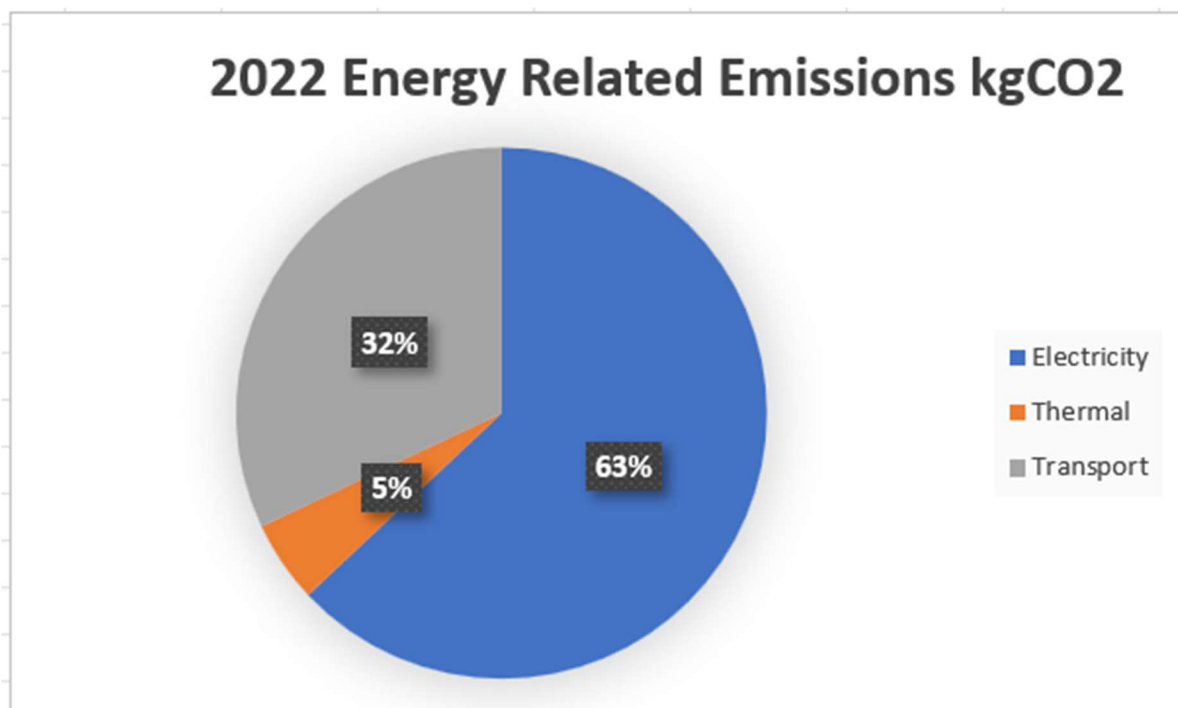


Figure 2. 7 Carbon Emissions generated by Cavan County Council in 2022

2.5 Emission reduction opportunities

The mitigation assessment provides valuable information to inform relevant and targeted actions by Cavan County Council to reduce emissions within the Council and across the county. Possible actions that will support emissions reductions are identified in Table 2.4

Table 2. 4 Emission Reduction Opportunities

BUILDINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the retrofitting of public and private buildings. • Encourage a switch to green energy sources within the social housing stock, for which Cavan County Council is responsible. • Leverage the Council’s leadership role within the community to influence residents to switch to lower greenhouse gas emitting energy sources within their homes. • Promote and enabling micro renewables, including uptake of rooftop Solar PV • Raise awareness amongst the community of greener energy sources and funding streams available.
ROAD TRANSPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve modal switch options, thereby reducing the amount of private car use by improving availability and access to public transport options. • Increase the use of active travel, such as walking and cycling, by providing suitable infrastructure. • Enable and facilitate EV infrastructure required to support electrification of vehicles. • Raise awareness and incentivise alternative modes of transport. • Facilitate and develop remote working hubs/centres to reduce commuting patterns.
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance biodiversity, ecosystems, and habitats. • Plan, design, develop and integrate high quality green spaces. • Plant and maintain trees in urban areas. • Promote, protect, and restore carbon rich habitats.
JUST TRANSITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all decarbonisation activities reach all residents and businesses equitably. • Harness the co-benefits of decarbonising activities for communities. • Target energy poverty as a means to promote fuel switching initiatives. • Raise awareness of grants available, smart metering, energy saving measures • Provide for inclusive infrastructure and systems for all. •
COUNCIL ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decarbonising Cavan County Council’s own assets and activities through retrofitting, switching fossil fuel heating sources to heat pumps. • Decarbonise Cavan County Council’s own fleet to electric and alternative fuels as appropriate. • Engage with digitalisation and new technologies. • Work with neighbouring local authorities to advance projects to funding and delivery. • Develop implementation plans and strategies for finance.

2.6 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is a crucial process in developing effective climate action plans. It involves actively involving individuals, groups, organisations, and communities that have an interest or stake in climate-related decisions.

In addition to using data and information on climate risks and mitigation assessments Cavan County Council sought the views and contribution of a range of stakeholders to help shape this LA-CAP. The following is an overview of the stakeholder engagement process undertaken by Cavan County Council:

- ➔ **Identification:** Identification of stakeholders. Cavan County Council carried out a stakeholder identification exercise. This process highlighted all relevant stakeholders including, various departments within the Council, government agencies, local communities, businesses, environmental groups, and vulnerable populations.
- ➔ **Inclusion:** Cavan County Council included a broad spectrum of stakeholders across a range of sectors.
- ➔ **Information Sharing:** Stakeholders were provided with clear, accessible information about the climate challenges, potential solutions, and the planning process. This empowered them to make informed contributions.
- ➔ **Consultation:** Meetings, workshops, and presentations were held to gather input and feedback. Cavan County Council encouraged open dialogue and active listening to understand stakeholders' concerns, needs, and priorities.
- ➔ **Collaborative Decision-Making:** Involvement of stakeholders in the decision-making process. Cavan County Council collaboratively developed goals, strategies, and actions to ensure ownership and alignment with local context.
- ➔ **Feedback Loop:** Cavan County Council established a mechanism for ongoing communication and feedback. Stakeholders were regularly updated on progress and their suggestions and concerns were incorporated into revisions.
- ➔ **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Cavan County Council involved stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation of climate actions to ensure accountability and adaptability.

Successful stakeholder engagement not only strengthens the legitimacy and effectiveness of climate action plans but also fosters a sense of shared responsibility and ownership among the community, enhancing the likelihood of successful implementation.

2.6.1 Pre-Draft Stakeholder Engagement

The pre-draft stakeholder engagement for the LA-CAP took place between June 12th and August 11th, 2023. This public involvement process aimed to gather input and feedback from the public and stakeholders regarding the development of the LA-CAP. It featured a series of engagement events and methods, including:

- Presentations to the Climate Action Steering Committee, the Strategic Policy Committees, Elected Members, the Senior Management Team of Cavan County Council, Public Participation Network (PPN), Cavan LEADER Programme members, and representatives from Cavan Local Enterprise Office and local industries.
- A climate information display at the Cavan Calling Festival weekend from July 29-30, 2023.
- Online community and business & enterprise surveys.
- Individual meetings with key stakeholders from the public, private, and community sectors.
- Advertisements on the council website, the local newspaper and the council social media outlets.
- Internal meetings with management team members, department heads, and additional project-specific personnel from Cavan County Council.
- A workshop facilitated by the Eastern Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and hosting cross departmental individuals from Cavan County Council.

The public were invited to have their say by taking part in the online surveys or in a written submission by email/post. A total of 86 member of the public took part in the online survey while 11 detailed submissions were received over the consultation period. A report outlining the feedback received as part of this process was compiled and is presented in Appendix F to this document.

All written submissions and survey responses were thoroughly reviewed and analysed as part of the consultation analysis, along with the key points raised during the workshops, meetings and presentations. The analysis revealed several key themes related to economic and community needs. The ideas and suggestions provided by the community and stakeholders have been incorporated, both directly and indirectly, into actions within the LA-CAP.



Figure 2. 8 Presentation to Elected Members and Strategic Policy Committees



Figure 2. 9 Workshop for cross departmental members of Cavan County Council

2.6.2 Press & Media

An advert featured in the Anglo Celt newspaper emphasised the significance of the LACAP for County Cavan. This advertisement also showcased the primary phases involved in the LACAP's development. Furthermore, it detailed the process through which the general public could submit their contributions to the LA-CAP, as described earlier. Throughout the public consultation period, social media posts were disseminated via several council social media platforms, such as Facebook and LinkedIn, encouraging the public to express their opinions.

Cavan County Council is preparing a Local Authority Climate Action Plan

We're looking for your input into our Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LA-CAP).

Help us shape appropriate actions to facilitate and enable effective climate action at a local and community level. Our Plan is currently in draft, and the final version will be adopted by our Elected Members before 23rd February 2024.

Local authorities are key drivers in advancing climate policy at the local level and our LA-CAP aims to strengthen the alignment between national climate policy and local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures, to assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective for Cavan.

Cavan County Council will use its LA-CAP in planning how it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role to influence, facilitate and co-ordinate the climate actions of communities and other stakeholders and what it will do to advocate for climate action in Cavan.

In order to ensure that our LA-CAP is centred around a strong understanding of the role and remit of Cavan County Council on climate action, the Plan is being developed through the following framework:

- **Full accountability:** Targeted actions for areas where Cavan County Council has full accountability for climate action within their own operations.

• Influence:
Actions for where Cavan County Council can influence businesses, communities, and individuals in the delivery of local climate action through the functions and services they provide.

• Coordination:
Actions for where Cavan County Council can coordinate and facilitate local and community action bringing together stakeholders in partnership to achieve climate action related projects.

• Advocate:
Actions aligned to Cavan County Council role as advocate on climate action through raising awareness, communicating, informing, and engaging in open dialogue on the topic.

Purpose of the plan:

- To deliver on national obligations to achieve the National Climate Objective of becoming a Climate Resilient, Biodiversity Rich, Environmentally Sustainable and Carbon Neutral Economy by no later than the end of 2050.
- To deliver and promote evidence-based and integrated climate action by way of adaptation and mitigation measures, centred around a strong understanding of the role and remit of the local authority on climate action.

Adaptation means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, and/ or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. Examples: flood defences; green infrastructure and ecosystem services; disaster management and business continuity; sustainable land use and urban planning; biodiversity management; water use efficiency; water resource management.

Mitigation means making the impacts of climate change less severe by preventing or reducing the emissions of

greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere. Examples: energy use & GHG emission reduction activities; energy efficient buildings; increase use of renewable energy sources (solar, wind); sustainable transport; carbon sequestration; carbon capture with utilisation; waste reduction.

Changing Climate
Our climate is changing in line with global trends. We are experiencing warmer temperatures with the past 8 years the hottest on record. As a result of higher average temperatures, we are also experiencing more intense weather events including droughts, storms, heavy rainfall, and stronger winds resulting in higher vulnerability and risk to the impacts of climate change within the local authority area.

To tackle climate change, the level of greenhouse gases entering and already in our atmosphere need to be reduced and removed. In addition, we must further increase our resilience to current and future climate change impacts.

As part of global and national efforts, we must meet the National Climate Objective 2050. Our Climate Action

Plan will set out how the local authority aims to achieve its role within the National Climate Objective over the next 5 years and beyond toward 2050. It will act as a key instrument that strengthens the links between national and international climate policy and the delivery of effective climate action at local and community levels, through place-based climate action.

3. Post your written submission to:
Bróna Keating, Climate Action Coordinator, Cavan County Council Environment Services Farnham Street, Cavan H12 C9K1

Completed surveys and submissions can be made up until 5pm on Friday, 11th August 2023.

Everyone is welcome to make a submission (including youth groups, children and those representing children) at each public consultation stage of the LA-CAP.

How to write a helpful submission
Please write submissions that:

- Are short and to the point
- Are focused on one or more of the key climate themes of interest to you
- Include your name and address. (Your contact details won't be published).

The content of your submission may be published as part of the plan-making process. At all times Cavan County Council will comply with GDPR legislation

Stay informed
You can keep updated on the progress of the Climate Action Plan by visiting www.cavancoco.ie/climate-action or by following @cavancoco on social media.

There are three ways you can have your say to help us shape the actions in the new Climate Action plan.

1. Complete the short online survey on our dedicated Climate Webpage: www.cavancoco.ie/climate-action
2. Email your submission to climateaction@cavancoco.ie

Stage 1 Building the Evidence Base (October 2022 to June 2023)
Baseline Emission Inventory
Climate Change Risk Assessment
Stakeholder Engagement Planning
Policy Mapping

Stage 2 Plan Making Phase (June 2023 to September 2023)
Pre-draft engagement
Developing the vision, objectives, actions, and key performance indicators
SEA/AA Reports
Public Consultation on draft LA-CAP (October to December 2023)

Stage 3 Climate Action Plan adopted (February 2024)
Consideration of submissions
Finalising LA-CAP
Adoption of LA-CAP by Elected Members (February 2023)

Ceanáire Corrae an Chabháin
Cavan County Council

Figure 2. 10 Pre-Draft Public Consultation as displayed in the Anglo Celt

3.0 Framework of Climate Actions

Actions of this plan will be delivered within and as part of a framework to ensure their effective and successful completion. Actions prioritised as part of this framework will work to reduce emissions from Cavan County Council’s own assets and operations, influence sectors in the delivery of their own emission reductions, raise awareness of climate change and promote positive climate action at community level.

The framework configures the arrangement of climate actions within a defined structure ensuring alignment between potential on the ground actions and the overarching vision that the plan aspires to deliver.



Figure 3. 1 Framework from plan vision to actions

3.1 Cross cutting considerations

There are a number of cross cutting considerations built in as part of the framework of climate actions of this plan.

Table 3. 1 Cross cutting considerations of framework actions

Action Focus & Prioritisation	Partnership & Collaboration	Just Transition & Fairness	Maximising Co-Benefits
<p>Actions of this plan have been identified based on their ability to help deliver on climate obligations of reducing emission and building resilience.</p> <p>Actions & projects will be prioritised based on their positive climate impact, the multiple co-benefits they accrue and value for money in that context.</p> <p>The Council will take an evidence-based approach to assessing options and decision making to support the implementation of climate actions.</p> <p>Multiple funding/grant sources will be used to implement actions and projects.</p>	<p>This plan will operate on the model of collaborative climate action.</p> <p>Implementing actions of this plan will require engagement, collaboration and partnership with a broad range of stakeholders from Government to community level, to deliver on climate action.</p> <p>This plan will promote and harness ideas, knowledge and collective enthusiasm of stakeholders.</p> <p>This plan supports research partnerships with 3rd level colleges and universities and wider national and international research organisations.</p>	<p>This plan upholds the principles of climate justice and fairness.</p> <p>This plan will ensure that the people in County Cavan who are most vulnerable and have the lowest capacity to engage with climate action are targeted and supported.</p> <p>The Council is committed to monitoring and identifying the needs and deficiencies of communities and to giving a voice and support to enable communities to advance in their understanding and address the challenges.</p> <p>Strive to provide easy to understand climate information, to educate and advocate about the need to engage with climate action.</p>	<p>The Council’s approach to sustainable climate neutrality maintains an ambition to identify and realise multiple co-benefits where possible.</p> <p>Co-benefits targeted will strive to optimise protection and enhancement of the natural environment to improve health and wellbeing outcomes as well as support for a clean and green local economy.</p>

3.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a mandated process that systematically assesses the potential significant environmental impacts of implementing the new Climate Change Action Plan before its final adoption decision. SEA applies to plans and strategic actions that shape and frame various projects. Under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, which transpose the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) into Irish law, the assessment determines if the plan could significantly affect Natura 2000 sites. The SEA completed in conjunction with this plan is presented in Appendix I.

The LA-CAP underwent a screening process to assess its impact on Natura 2000 sites, leading to the need for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA). While AA is a separate statutory process from SEA, they run in parallel, and AA findings informed the SEA process described earlier. Both SEA and AA processes collaboratively influenced plan preparation, identifying environmental sensitivities and suggesting improvements to enhance the environmental performance of proposed actions. The AA completed in conjunction with this plan is presented in Appendix J.

Changes proposed in the LA-CAP via the Chief Executive's Report will also be subject to screening for SEA and AA to identify potential significant environmental effects or impacts on European sites. Both processes recommended additional mitigation measures for the LA-CAP, and the SEA introduced a monitoring regimen, now integrated into the LA-CAP. All identified mitigation measures from the SEA and AA processes will be implemented during the plan's duration.

3.3 Environmental Governance

The primary purpose of the LA-CAP is to advocate, cultivate, and execute climate actions through enhancements in processes, community involvement, gradual development, and integrated learning approaches. These strategies will be continually refined throughout the plan's lifespan. It is crucial to emphasise that an integral aspect of the LA-CAP is to generate concurrent benefits for both the climate and other environmental factors.

To be realised, projects included in or supported by the LA-CAP must adhere, where relevant, to various legislations, policies, plans, and programs. These encompass requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, and other necessary licenses within the established statutory framework for decision-making and consent, in which the Plan is neither a part nor a contributor.

These considerations notably involve the Water Framework Directive, an EU framework establishing standards for water protection and management. River basin management plans play a pivotal role in fulfilling the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. They offer comprehensive strategies for achieving favourable water status and preventing pollution throughout entire river basins. These plans facilitate collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including governments, communities, and industries, to attain integrated water management and environmental preservation, ensuring compliance with the Directive's aims.

The plan adopts an integrated approach that identifies sustainable land use practices, enhances water management, and preserves ecosystems. It aims to mitigate the impact of climate change on water resources while concurrently safeguarding both the environment and public health. This integrated approach underscores Ireland's commitment to achieving climate objectives while concurrently advocating for a more robust and healthier natural environment.

In addition to the climate-focused measures detailed throughout the plan, which offer environmental co-benefits, and environmental notes that provide context for action progression, several environmental governance principles will guide future initiatives, ensuring a balanced and sustainable approach to climate and environmental considerations as outlined in table 3.2.

Table 3. 2 Environmental governance principles to be integrated into all actions/activities which result due to the implementation of the LA-CAP

Ref	Action
EG1	Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
EG2	Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
EG3	Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effect on the receiving environment shall be supported.
EG4	Flood defence projects or related maintenance works supported by plan actions shall be carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-biodiversity related co-benefits, and shall have due regard for the protection and enhancement of rare, protected or important habitats and species.
EG5	Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and do not result in unauthorised physical damage to cultural, archaeological or architectural features, or unauthorised or inappropriate alteration of the context of sensitive cultural heritage features.
EG6	Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action water quality co-benefits, and align with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.
EG7	Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, floodzones which contribute to green infrastructure.
EG8	Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
EG9	Ensure all projects supported by the council have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasives species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasives species listed in Schedule III shall be supported.
EG10	Support opportunities to support peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan.

3.4 Alignment with policy/commitments

This LA-CAP, in so far as is practicable, is consistent with the most recently approved National Climate Action Plan and National Adaptation Framework. Regard has also been had to the sectoral emissions ceilings and budgets that help to shape and inform government policy on climate action over the next five years.



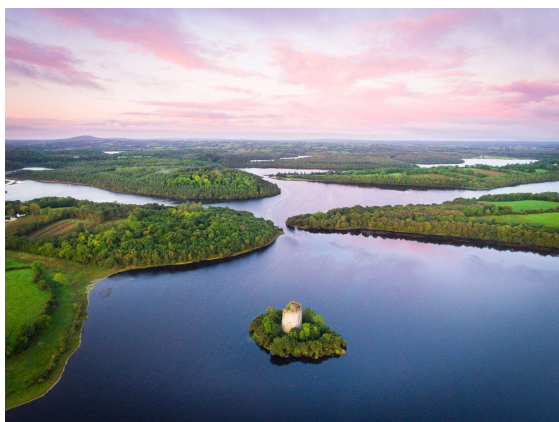
Figure 3. 2 Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals

Additionally, this plan has aligned with the strategic goals of the sectoral strategy published in April 2021 by local government (*Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 DECA*). This strategy sets out the overarching commitment on climate action leadership to ensure a coherent approach to climate action across the administrative and political structures of all 31 local authorities.

The 2022-2024 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.”

3.5 Plan Vision & Mission

3.5.1 Plan Vision



The plan Vision reflects the shared perspective of a climate resilient and climate neutral future for County Cavan:

That Cavan County Council will be a climate resilient and low carbon organisation that inspires, leads and supports ambitious action to achieve a Climate Neutral Local Economy

3.5.2 Plan Mission

While Cavan County Council's Vision Statement defines where it would like to lead the County, its mission statement speaks to its grounded purpose in delivering and mainstreaming effective climate action across all services and functions. This action-oriented mission statement helps guide representatives and stakeholders of Cavan County Council in coordinating their work towards the defined Vision. The Mission for Cavan County Council on climate action is:

To lead by example, support and inspire climate action across our county to ensure that Cavan remains an attractive, competitive and sustainable place to live, visit and do business.

All Council departments will receive appropriate information and engagement regarding their assigned responsibilities within this Plan. This approach ensures a well-coordinated and all-encompassing response to climate-related initiatives.

The Council will actively interact with citizens, businesses, and communities to enhance understanding of climate change, promote climate literacy, and facilitate the necessary shifts in behaviour.

3.3.3 Strategic Goals

Strategic goals set the context for mitigation and adaptations actions in service of Cavan County Council’s climate Vision and Mission. The identification and development of such goals establishes a structured approach to the arrangement of climate actions to be addressed. These goals are informed by the key themes that emerged from the issues collated as part of the evidence base and stakeholder engagement.

There are 5 Strategic Goals in this plan:

STRATEGIC GOALS	1. Governance & Leadership
	2. Built Environment & Transport
	3. Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure
	4. Communities; Resilience & Transition
	5. Sustainability & Resource Management

Strategic Goal 1



Governance & Leadership

SG1 Cavan County Council will provide robust leadership, governance, and commitment to climate action to achieve our Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals in line with National Policy

3.6 Governance & Leadership

Objectives

- ➔ To implement appropriate climate action mitigation and adaptation measures across all operations of Cavan County Council
- ➔ To be an exemplar in climate action so as to influence, coordinate and enable others to meet their own climate obligations.
- ➔ To work and collaborate with other sectors and agencies to deliver programmes that support climate action.
- ➔ To utilise technology to enhance the efficiency and decrease the carbon footprint of our services.
- ➔ To increase the knowledge, awareness and competency of the staff of Cavan County Council surrounding climate change and action

The magnitude of climate change initiatives demands robust governance that can adapt to the intricacies and challenges involved. Ultimately, the effective execution of the action plan is a shared responsibility involving numerous stakeholders, extending beyond Cavan County Council. Nevertheless, a pivotal determinant of success is the unwavering commitment of Cavan County Council to provide strong governance and guidance in realising this plan.

In this context, Cavan County Council will oversee efforts to curtail greenhouse gas emissions across its assets and infrastructure while reinforcing resilience to ensure uninterrupted service delivery. Furthermore, the council aims to influence and facilitate others in meeting their climate commitments. Actions outlined under the strategic goal of Governance and Leadership will galvanise Cavan County Council to pursue impactful climate action:

- ➔ **Climate Action Capacities:** Establishing the necessary resources and governance structures to facilitate sound decision-making and support LA-CAP implementation.
- ➔ **Cross-Departmental Coordination:** Activating the local authority climate action team to foster collaboration among various departments, enabling the realisation of actions across all council services.
- ➔ **Collaboration:** Engaging with pertinent government departments, agencies, and stakeholders, forging partnerships to find solutions for action implementation.
- ➔ **Mainstreaming:** Ensuring that all council strategies, policies, plans, and projects align with the LA-CAP and securing funding for priority actions.
- ➔ **Public Awareness:** Elevating public awareness to garner support for LA-CAP implementation.
- ➔ **Monitoring and Reporting:** Establishing a system to monitor progress toward action achievement and ensuring transparent reporting.

In summary, robust governance and steadfast leadership are central to Cavan County Council's commitment to drive meaningful climate action in collaboration with diverse stakeholders.

Table 3. 3 Governance & Leadership

Governance & Leadership						
Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To implement appropriate climate action, mitigation and adaptation measures across all operation of Cavan County Council						
GI 32	Finalise, adopt and implement a Green Public Procurement (GPP) strategy aligned with national policies. The gpp strategy to be implemented across all services and functions and utilise for procurement of services and materials.	Combined	Finalise and adopt strategy. Implement strategy.	Procurement/ SMT	All Departments	2024
GI 33	Develop a monitoring and reporting tool to ensure GPP is embedded into all procurement.	Mitigation	Development of monitoring tool.	Procurement/ Corporate/ HR	All Departments	2024
GI 34	Ensure GPP Monitoring & Reporting is undertaken to ensure Green Criteria is included in contracts.	Mitigation	Number of contracts assessed for GPP inclusion	Procurement/ Climate Action Team	All Departments	ongoing
GI 1	Mainstream Climate Action policy as an integral component in the Corporate Plan objectives to ensure due consideration within local authority activities and the delivery of functions and services.	Combined	Alignment of all objectives of plan with Climate Action Policy	SMT	All Depts. of Cavan County Council	2024

Governance & Leadership

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To implement appropriate climate action, mitigation and adaptation measures across all operation of Cavan County Council						
GI 12	Ensure that latest iterations of Cavan’s plans, policies and strategies fully align with Cavan Climate Action Plan.	Combined	Review of existing plans and policies.	SMT	Corporate/ HR	Annually
GI 24	All sections heads to continuously update Climate Action Team with new project details to ensure Climate Action considerations.	Combined	Quarterly review to be issued to Climate Action Team	SMT	All Depts. of Cavan County Council	2024
GI 14	Include Climate Action on all Council meeting agendas ensuring that EM’s are up to date with the required knowledge and information to support the implementation of the CAP.	Combined	Inclusion of Climate Action on all meeting agendas	Corporate	SMT, Climate Action Team	2024
GI 9	Climate Action will be incorporated into the PMDS process.	Combined	Incorporation into PMDS	Corporate/ HR	Climate Action Team	2025

Governance & Leadership

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To implement appropriate climate action, mitigation and adaptation measures across all operation of Cavan County Council						
GI 6	Ensure that Climate Action Committee is represented by each section to drive the actions outlined by the Climate Action Plan.	Combined	Assessment of committee. Replacement of committee member with relevant entities as necessary	SMT	Climate Action Team	2024
GI 4	Provide adequate budgets to appropriate sections to implement CAP actions and to source funding opportunities to support longer term investment strategies.	Combined	Provision of budgets. Completion of actions.	SMT	Climate Action Team	Annually
GI 15	Examination of current home working configuration in addition to smarter working practices to reduce employees travel time or distance travelled. Review remote working policy with consultation with all staff.	Adaptation	Completion of policy review. Quantification of travel time or Km's travelled. Reduction in annual KM's travelled or travel time.	HR	SMT	2025

Governance & Leadership

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To be an exemplar in climate action so as to influence, coordinate and enable others to meet their own climate obligations						
GI 11	Hold, promote and support an Annual Climate Action Day within Cavan County Council	Combined	Event participation	Corporate/ HR	Climate Action Team	Annually
GI 17	Implement a Biodiversity Officer position within Cavan County Council.	Mitigation	Implementation of Biodiversity Officer	Corporate/HR	SMT	2024
GI 18	Implement a designated social media officer to promote Cavan County Council as an ambassador for climate change. The officer will be responsible for highlighting, promoting and creating awareness on climate change via the Cavan County Council website.	Combined	Implementation of social media officer	Corporate/HR	SMT	2025
GI 35	Implement a facilities/property/asset manager position in Cavan County Council.	Combined	Implementation of facilities/property/asset management officer	Corporate/HR	SMT	2024

Governance & Leadership

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To be an exemplar in climate action so as to influence, coordinate and enable others to meet their own climate obligations						
GI 21	Update library educational stock with current climate action information where available. Continue to update material as necessary.	Mitigation	Volume of replaced content	Library	Climate Action Team	2024
GI 36	Review Local Authority estate competition with a view to incorporating where possible issues such as climate change.	Combined	Number of competitions held	Housing	Climate Action Team	2024
GI 37	Promote newly refurbished and constructed council houses as best practice examples of energy conservation and the importance of the decarbonised zone both from local contractors and the public.	Combined	Number of promotional activities undertaken.	Housing	Climate Action Team	2025
GI 38	Enhancement of emphasis on development of social housing on sites near town centres and local facilities. Ensure any supported development is planned in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water, environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage.	Mitigation	Number of new developments in proximity to town centres	Housing	Climate Action Team	2025

Governance & Leadership

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To work and collaborate with other sectors and agencies to deliver programmes that support climate action						
GI 19	<p>Inform Industry, Business and Enterprise of applicable funding sources available to them to assist with GHG reduction or implementation of energy upgrades, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.</p>	Mitigation	No of information events held	LEO	Climate Action Team	2024
GI 25	<p>Carry out an energy performance review on a quarterly basis. Review will include details of energy and GHG reduction progress from baselines.</p>	Combined	GHG reduction progress	Energy Officer, Fleet Manager	Climate Action Team	2024

Governance & Leadership

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To work and collaborate with other sectors and agencies to deliver programmes that support climate action						
GI 31	To input to a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change, and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive with a focus on follow-up and protective/remedial action.	Combined	Completion of feasibility	Environment	Uisce Eireann/LAWP RO/Water Services	As required
GI 20	Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Northern and Western Climate Action Region.	Combined	Number of recommendations adopted	Climate Action Team	LEO	2024
GI 27	Deliver all objectives within the Cavan County Council ICT digital Strategy .	Adaptation	No of objectives delivered	IT	Climate Action Team	2024

Governance & Leadership

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To utilise technology to enhance the efficiency and decrease the carbon footprint of our services						
GI 28	<p>Adapt a cloud technology first approach to reduce the volume of energy used by physical servers and ancillary infrastructure such as cooling systems.</p> <p>Steps will be taken to ensure the cloud provider chosen has sustainability- and carbon-goals that align with the overall objective of this plan.</p>	Adaptation	Reduction in numbers of physical servers	IT	Climate Action Team	2026
GI 29	<p>Replacement of technology in council chamber to facilitate hybrid meetings going forward whilst ensuring WEEE generated as a result of this action is appropriately managed.</p>	Adaptation	Implementation of new technology	IT	Climate Action Team	2025
GI 30	<p>Continue reduction of printers across organisation whilst ensuring WEEE generated as a result of this action is appropriately managed.</p>	Adaptation	Number of printers removed	IT	Climate Action Team	2029
GI 16	<p>Utilisation of M&R system to obtain information on organisations GHG emissions to ensure transparent, balanced and accurate reporting of decarbonisation progress to keep stakeholders informed.</p>	Combined	Input to M&R system	Climate Action Team	Energy Officer	2024

Governance & Leadership

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To increase the knowledge, awareness and competency of the staff of Cavan County Council surrounding climate change and action						
GI 8	Create and implement a climate action engagement programme within the organisation for all staff and Elected Members.	Combined	Number of staff and Elected Members to complete training	Climate Action Team	Corporate/ HR	2024
GI 7	Develop a climate action pack as part of induction process for all indoor and outdoor staff and EM's.	Combined	Development of Climate Action Pack	Corporate/ HR	Climate Action Team	2024
GI 5	Provision of appropriate and ongoing training for Climate Action Committee Members. Ensure that all staff are aware of how extreme weather events affects the council in terms of provision of services and finances.	Combined	Number of training programmes completed	Corporate/ HR	Climate Action Team, CARO	Annually
GI 39	Develop a collaborative cross departmental forum to educate and raise awareness amongst staff of climate change actions, initiatives and funding schemes available to assist with implementation. To include the use of exemplar projects and demonstration sites.	Combined	Development of forum	Environment/ Climate Action Team	Community & Enterprise	2024

Strategic Goal

2



Built Environment & Transport

SG 2 To pursue climate actions to increase climate resilience of the built environment and transport to achieve our emissions reduction targets

3.7 Built Environment & Transport

Objectives

- ➔ To reduce the council's impact on the environment through organisational energy management and upgrades
- ➔ To conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the use of renewable energy sources and increase energy efficiency throughout our housing, offices and infrastructure.
- ➔ Ensure that emergency planning systems and plans address climate action to protect our assets and critical infrastructure from extreme weather events and to ensure a co-ordinated and resourced emergency response to all climate related emergencies and events, including flooding.
- ➔ To promote, support and facilitate the implementation and expansion of active travel mechanisms. This will be done in association with other key stakeholders, to enhance connectivity, mobility and modal shift in Cavan.
- ➔ To reduce the councils transport emissions through increasing fuel efficiency, facilitating fleet transition and examining current working practices
- ➔ To align, update and implement plans and strategies as required to enable sustainable transport and active travel in Cavan

The built environment in Cavan County encompasses various types of structures, including residential, public, industrial, and commercial buildings, along with critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, drainage systems, and energy and communication networks. Buildings make a significant contribution to the county's emissions. To combat this, we must prioritise enhancing energy efficiency and transitioning to low-carbon heating sources in buildings. Additionally, it's crucial to establish renewable energy infrastructure to contribute to the national grid's decarbonisation, offering an eco-friendly alternative to fossil fuels.

Preserving the built environment from climate change's adverse effects is also a top priority. This involves minimising climate-related risks to key infrastructure like council-owned buildings, roads, stormwater drains, public facilities, and the energy grid. Achieving this necessitates meticulous planning, readiness, and asset management in collaboration with key stakeholders and agencies such as the Office of Public Works (OPW), particularly concerning flood risk.

County Cavan's transportation emissions primarily result from heavy reliance on private cars. To address this, we must decrease car usage, promote cycling and walking, enhance public transport options, and encourage the adoption of low-emission vehicles. These measures can lead to improved air quality, increased mobility, and enhanced public health.

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are gaining popularity nationwide, aligning with the shift away from fossil fuel-powered vehicles. In support of this trend, the Council aims to actively facilitate the technological transition by collaborating with service providers to expand the necessary charging infrastructure, meeting the growing demand for accessible charging stations.

Table 3. 4 Built Environment & Transport

Built Environment						
Ref.	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To reduce the councils impact on the environment through organisational energy management & upgrades						
B4	Prepare and implement a programme of measures for Council Buildings/Facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in non-electrical related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and to improve adaptation to climate change.	Mitigation	Preparation of Programme. Implementation of Programme.	Facilities/Asset Management / Environment/ Housing	All Departments	2030
B1	Public Buildings- Implement sensor lighting in all common areas and corridors of suitable public buildings.	Mitigation	Number of buildings with lighting upgrades	All Sections with Responsibility for Public Buildings	Facilities/ Asset Manager	2025
B2	Cavan County Council will assign an entity to compile an asset/property register which will detail all council owned buildings and lands. This register can then be utilised to assist with achievement of net zero and sustainability proofing of council owned buildings. The register will be updated routinely.	Combined	Completion of register. Revision of Register	Facilities/Asset Manager	SEAI/Housing	2025
B3	Apply a robust risk assessment and management framework to Local Authority owned buildings and properties to identify and protect against the key vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change and mitigate against service disruption.	Combined	Completion of Risk Assessment	Facilities/Asset Manager	Housing Construction	2024

Built Environment

Ref.	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To reduce the councils impact on the environment through organisational energy management & upgrades						
B5	Deliver the Cavan’s Pathfinder Programme by 2025 and pursue other national and regional funding sources for retrofitting and improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions. Pursue additional similar funding programmes for further emission reduction works whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure that all retrofitting works will prioritise energy efficiencies and renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity.	Mitigation	Completion of Programme. Reduction in energy usage of buildings	Environment/Energy Officer	SEAI/Housing/Facilities/ asset manager	2025
B6	Deliver the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in Cavan as part of PLEEP Scheme to reduce GHG emissions and energy usage of Public Lighting. Ensure potential actions maintain/control or reduce existing lumen levels and spectral range to avoid effects on biodiversity.	Mitigation	Number of lighting upgrades complete. Reduction in energy usage	Roads	RMO TII	2024
B7	Develop and implement a formalised retrofitting housing strategy for energy efficiency for our housing stock with an initial focus in Cavan Town as the DZ having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.	Mitigation	Completion of strategy. Number of houses retrofitted	Housing Construction	Climate Action Team	2025
B8	Ensure that all new council public buildings are built to Net Zero Standards having due regard to the need to ensure renewable energy development forming part of this project will not have any significant negative environmental effect.	Mitigation	Number of new builds completed to net zero	Housing Construction, Roads, C&E and Planning.	Planning	Going forward

Built Environment

Ref.	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To reduce the councils impact on the environment through organisational energy management & upgrades						
B9	Use Gap to Target tool to inform decisions and continue retrofitting council owned buildings to reduce emissions such as Electricity, Thermal and Transport and improve energy efficiency having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.	Mitigation	Validated data on emissions. % emissions reduction since baseline	Energy Officer/ Housing	Climate Action Unit	Annually
B10	Facilitate and support the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Cavan Town and County through schemes such as Town Centre First, having regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity and the need to appropriately protect and conserve structures.	Mitigation	Number of houses upgraded. Number of houses occupied	Planning & Housing Construction.	Dept of Rural Community Development. Dept of Housing, Local Government & Housing	2029
B11	Investigate potential for application of solar PV on council owned car parks and investigate feasibility of installing on all appropriate Council/ Public buildings. Where it is confirmed through a glint and glare assessment that such solar development will not have any potential impact on sensitive receptors.	Mitigation	Number of solar installations	Facilities Manager, Environment & Roads and Housing.	Climate Action Team/planning	2026

Built Environment

Ref.	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the use of renewable energy technologies and increase energy efficiency throughout our housing, offices and infrastructure						
B12	<p>Establish a program to prepare a full Building Energy Rating (BER) inventory for all publicly owned social housing within its functional area, GDPR permitting. Revise and update list annually, having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.</p>	Mitigation	Completion of programme with associated timeframes. Number of BERs complete. Revision of list	Facilities/Asses Manager	Housing Construction	2024
B13	<p>Ensure water efficiency and conservation measures are implemented in new LA buildings and housing, by including water saving technologies in public housing and buildings, training plumbers and building contractors in water efficiency measures, and including water efficiency measure in Green Procurement. During any works, there will be due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.</p>	Mitigation	Number of new buildings completed. Reduction in water usage in Litres	Facilities/ Asset Manager	Housing Construction	2026
B16	<p>Ensure all new build social housing by Cavan County Council meet minimum A2 Building Energy Rating standard to reduce GHG emissions and Energy consumption; having due regard to the need to ensure renewable energy development forming part of this project will not have any significant negative environmental effect.</p>	Mitigation	Number of A2 rated builds. Completion of BER's. Updating BER's as necessary	Housing Construction	Energy Consultants	Annually
B17	<p>Continue retrofitting and upgrading works of existing social housing units to BER B2 rating to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption having regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity.</p>	Mitigation	Number of houses upgraded to BER B2. Number of houses planned for upgrade to B2	Housing Construction	Climate Action Team	Annually

Built Environment

Ref.	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Ensure emergency planning systems and plans address climate action to protect critical infrastructure from extreme weather events and to ensure a co-ordinated and resourced emergency response to all climate related emergencies and events, including flooding						
B20	Set up cross sectorial Adverse Weather steering committee to deal with, plan for adopt and mitigate for adverse weather events such as flooding. Collaborate & participate with SWFLM.	Mitigation	Setting up committee	MD's	All departments	2024
B21	Resolve local flooding issues utilising OPW and Department of Transport funding (Drainage programme, Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works, OPW Minor Works Scheme having due regard to the protection of biodiversity and European sites and avoidance of habitat fragmentation.	Adaptation	Participation and completion of OPW minor works scheme	Roads/MD's	OPW	2029
B22	Ensure that potential future flood information is obtained/generated by way of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and used to inform suitable adaptation requirements within the Development Management process and for preparation of the County Development Plan, in line with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Flood Risk Management (DoECLG & OPW, 2009).	Adaptation	Completion of assessment. Adaptation measures outlined and utilised to inform other plans	Roads/MD's	DoECLG/ OPW	2024
B23	Implement a cross sectoral Emergency Response Planning Team.	Mitigation	Team Implemented. Routine meetings held and recorded	SMT/Fire Service	All Departments	2024
B24	Undertake annual reviews of our Emergency Response Plan to account for more frequent climate change events. Ensure that emergency response plans are reviewed annually to ensure the appropriate resource capacity is in place to provide an effective emergency response, to issues increasing as a result of climate change including floods and wildfire.	Mitigation	Review of current plan. Annual update of plan.	Fire Services	Roads/MD's	Annually

Built Environment

Ref.	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Ensure emergency planning systems and plans address climate action to protect critical infrastructure from extreme weather events and to ensure a co-ordinated and resourced emergency response to all climate related emergencies and events, including flooding						
B25	Develop a formal routine gulley maintenance and cleaning plan to ensure that programs are in place in all towns and villages prone to flooding and that all gulley's are cleaned in advance of the Autumn and winter seasons.	Mitigation	Development of plan. Implementation of plan. Reduced flooding in prone areas	Roads/MD's	Climate Action Team	2024
T21	Implement the use of the Weather Impact Register across all Municipal Districts to record and collate the actual impacts of all severe weather events on national platform.	Mitigation	Implementation of register	Roads/MD's	Met Eireann/HSE	2025
T22	Undertake a Risk Assessment of road infrastructure to identify the severity of climate change risks on their function and condition. The risk assessment should provide for an understanding and quantification of risks posed. The findings should be integrated into decision making processes, road infrastructure programmes and investment strategies.	Mitigation	Completion of risk assessment	Roads	TFI	2025

Built Environment

Ref.	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Ensure emergency planning systems and plans address climate action to protect critical infrastructure from extreme weather events and to ensure a co-ordinated and resourced emergency response to all climate related emergencies and events, including flooding						
T23	Explore ways to minimise the expected increase in maintenance requirements and costs to road infrastructure from climate stress - Integrating climate change considerations at design stages - Explore the climate resilience of materials used in road construction and maintenance. Examine options to reduce road settlement due to severe weather events.	Mitigation	Implementation of alternatives and cost reductions	Roads	Climate Action Team	2025
NE11	Undertake a risk assessment of heritage, cultural and protected and archaeological structures to assess vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and to build resilience for these assets.	Combined	Completion of Risk Assessment	Heritage Officer	Climate Action Team	2024
NE12	Review Heritage Plan which incorporates the Biodiversity Plan. The actions within this plan will promote best practice in relation to the adverse impacts of climate change on historically important structures and the natural environment.	Combined	Completion of Review	Heritage Officer	Biodiversity Officer/ Climate Action Team	2024

Transport

Action No.	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To promote, support and facilitate the implementation and expansion of active travel mechanisms. This will be done in association with other key stakeholders, to enhance connectivity, mobility and modal shift in Cavan						
T2	<p>Continue to roll-out Active Travel Infrastructure maximising available funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA). Priority projects include cycle lane from Cavan Hospital to Cavan Bus Station, Virginia footbridge, Pedestrian/Cyclist Safety Improvements Station Road , Cootehill, having appropriate regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity.</p>	Combined	Completed Active Travel Projects	Roads/ Active Travel	NTA, Planning	2026
T3	<p>Continue to promote the use and development of initiatives to encourage sustainable mobility transport modes within the county. Engage with multimodal facilitators regarding suitability and implementation of such initiatives in appropriate towns.</p>	Combined	Number of promotional campaigns. Increase in various forms of transport modes	Climate Action Unit/Social Media Officer	Roads	2026
T4	<p>Progress the delivery of Greenway Infrastructure in line with the National Cycle Network (NCN) Priority projects at present include: 40km Greenway (Cavan to Ballyconnell, Cavan to Ulster Canal) and Cavan Town Urban Greenway Phase 2. Implement phase 2 of Cavan Town fully segregated greenway having due regard to opportunities to enhance tourism, recreation and cultural heritage value associated with the route, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, and cultural heritage related sensitivities.</p>	Combined	Number of completed projects. Number of Km's completed greenways.	Roads/ Active Travel	TII, Planning	2026

Transport

Action No.	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To promote, support and facilitate the implementation and expansion of active travel mechanisms. This will be done in association with other key stakeholders, to enhance connectivity, mobility and modal shift in Cavan						
T5	Work with and support the National Transport Authority, Rural Link, Bus Eireann and Cavan Transport Co-ordination Unit in the delivery and expansion of public transport initiatives the county. Including Routes and collection locations whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	Combined	Number of additional routes and collection locations	Roads/ Active Travel	NTA, Rural Link, Bus Eireann, Cavan Transportation Co-ordination Unit	2026
T6	Increase the number of safe routes to school schemes in county. Promotion of schemes and engagement with Boards of Management having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc.	Combined	Number of safe route to school schemes implemented. Number of schools who partake in scheme	Roads/ Active Travel	NTA/Green Schools	2024
T16	Promote and encourage a modal shift by raising awareness of Active Travel Infrastructure throughout Cavan. Run one social media campaign per yr.	Mitigation	Completion of campaign. Increase in usage of active travel infrastructure	Roads/Active Travel	Climate Action Team	Annually
T17	Become a partner to the National Transport Authority administered Smarter Travel Programme and partake with associated initiatives such as the Smarter Travel Mark; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc.	Mitigation	Number of initiatives undertaken	Roads/Active Travel	NTA/TFI	2024

Transport

Action No.	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To reduce the councils transport emissions through increasing fuel efficiency, facilitating fleet transition and examining current working practices						
T7	Develop an EV strategy for County Cavan & implement actions/recommendation as identified having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.	Mitigation	Development of strategy	Roads	Energy Officer/ Climate Action Team	2024
T8	Develop a fleet management strategy ensuring alignment to the CAP whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles.	Mitigation	Development of strategy	Roads	Energy Officer/ Climate Action Team	2025
T9	Implement routine statistical analysis of fleet vehicle fuel usage with a view to working on reducing usage year on year.	Mitigation	Fuel usage	Roads	Energy Officer/ Climate Action Team	Annually
T10	Undertake a decarbonisation strategy for local authority fleet in line with guidance from CCMA and SEAI activating the Avoid -Shift- Improve model working to the aim of 51% emission reductions by 2030. Implement roadmap to decarbonisation for LA fleet.	Mitigation	Development of strategy	Roads	Climate Action Team	2026

Transport

Action No.	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To reduce the councils transport emissions through increasing fuel efficiency, facilitating fleet transition and examining current working practices						
T11	Undertake a routine education exercise with all LA Fleet Vehicle Drivers through: 1. Fleet management CPC training, 2. Eco-driver & in vehicle driver training and include this stipulation in fleet decarbonisation strategy.	Mitigation	Completion of training	Roads	Climate Action Team	Annually
T12	Prepare inventory of Local Authority fleet, including leased vehicles and status of same i.e. end of life.	Mitigation	Completion of inventory	Roads	Climate Action Team	2024
T13	Purchase EV's as replacement fleet vehicles where suitable and available on the market in line with decarbonisation strategy, whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles.	Mitigation	Number of traditional vehicles replaced with EV	Roads	Energy Officer/ Climate Action Team	2029
T14	Replacement of fuel type for HGV fleet with HVO's when technology and product becomes available whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for HGVs.	Mitigation	Number of vehicles using HVO or alternative fuel	Roads	Climate Action Team	2029

Transport

Action No.	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To reduce the councils transport emissions through increasing fuel efficiency, facilitating fleet transition and examining current working practices						
T15	To investigate the need for provision of pool vehicle(s) for Local Authority staff business use (site visits etc) and promote the cycle to work scheme to encourage the use of bicycles to travel to/from work. Encourage the use of car pooling/lift sharing.	Mitigation	Completion of investigation	Roads	Climate Action Team	2024
B19	Undertake a staff travel audit to ascertain how staff are travelling to and from work and to understand what additional facilities or infrastructure may be required to support alternative sustainable travel means. Audit can also be used to evaluate annual mileage of LA grey fleet and the resulting carbon emissions	Mitigation	Completion of audit. Quantification of annual KM's.	Climate Team/ Environment	All staff	2024
T26	Where possible, the provision of showers and changing rooms to facilitate staff active travel and travel via sustainable transport.	Combined	Implementation of facilities	Facilities/Asses Manager	SMT	2025
T27	Promotion of virtual meetings over in-person meetings to reduce business travel of staff within and outside the county.	Adaptation	Reduction in business travel KM's	Corporate	SMT	2024

Transport

Action No.	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To align, update and implement plans and strategies as required to enable sustainable transport and active travel in Cavan						
T1	<p>Develop, adopt & implement Local Transport Plans for additional towns with an emphasis on the promotion of sustainable transport modes and modal shift whilst ensuring these plans are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designed to mitigate potential environmental and ecological impacts associated with supported active travel infrastructure. - Support the carrying out of environmental/biodiversity enhancement during the active travel development process. 	Adaptation	Development of Plan	Roads/MD's	Planning	2029
T18	<p>Update cycling strategy for Cavan town and all of County Cavan and promotion of same. Identify deficiencies in the network for each town.; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc.</p>	Mitigation	Development of strategy	Roads/Active Travel	Climate Action Team	2025
T19	<p>Design and implement a transportation/mobility plan for Virginia and Bailieborough; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc. Whilst ensuring prioritising sustainable transport.</p>	Mitigation	Development of plans	Roads/Active Travel	Planning/Climate Action Team	2025
T20	<p>Finalise land use transportation plan for Cavan Town; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc. Whilst ensuring prioritising sustainable transport.</p>	Mitigation	Development of plans	Roads/Active Travel	Planning/Climate Action Team	2024

Strategic Goal 3



Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

SG 3 To enhance the Natural environment of County Cavan to work in support of nature based solutions for climate resilience and emission reductions whilst promoting enriched biodiversity.

3.8 Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

Objectives

- ➔ **To promote and protect our environment and its biodiversity and water catchments as key enablers of climate adaptation and mitigation across the county, through the delivery of sustainable services, including those with a focus on nature based solutions, in collaboration with sectors and communities**
- ➔ **To promote green infrastructure as a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity**
- ➔ **To protect peatlands from further degradation**

Cavan is predominantly a rural county renowned for the large number of lakes and intricate river systems. Agriculture is the prevailing land use and also plays an important role in the economic and sustainable growth of County Cavan.

Ongoing and projected climate change poses significant risks for the natural environment. Increasing temperature and extreme weather events is depleting biodiversity and habitats. Agricultural practices are also significantly impacted with increased rates of drought or high intensity rainfall events.

The Councils vision is to ensure that the natural environment of County Cavan is preserved and enhanced and to increase the provision of green infrastructure where possible. Green infrastructure forms a valuable asset in supporting biodiversity, supporting stormwater and flood risk management, optimising carbon storage whilst also offering opportunities for eco-system services, active travel, amenity and recreation.

Investing to maintain and enhance the natural environment will provide a range of benefits that help to manage and reduce the risks of climate change and help build resilience by reducing soil erosion, absorbing and slowing water run-off, providing cooling and shading in urban areas, increasing wildlife and biodiversity and contributing to health and wellbeing.

Table 3. 5 Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure						
Ref	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Promote and protect our environment and its biodiversity and water catchments as key enablers of climate adaptation and mitigation across the county, through the delivery of sustainable services, including those with a focus on nature based solutions, in collaboration with sectors and communities						
NE 3	Develop and implement a local Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including climate-relevant measures.	Combined	Development of plan. Implementation of plan	Biodiversity Officer	Climate Action Team	2025
NE5	Increase climate themed events and ensure sustainability and climate action are integrated into all events through the development of local authority wide policy on events e.g. Heritage week/Biodiversity week/Science week/Hedgerow week.	Combined	Number of events participated in	Climate Action Team	Environment/Heritage Officer/Biodiversity Officer	Annually
NE6	Develop and implement a policy for the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides for areas managed by Cavan County Council , ensuring these substances are only used to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.	Mitigation	Implementation chemical pesticides policy	MDs	Climate Action Team/ Biodiversity Officer	2024
NE7	Prepare guidelines for Invasive Alien Species Management. These guidelines shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage and prevent the spread of invasive species.	Mitigation	Guideline completed. Guidelines implemented	MDs	Climate Action Team/ Biodiversity Officer	2024

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

Ref	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Promote and protect our environment and its biodiversity and water catchments as key enablers of climate adaptation and mitigation across the county, through the delivery of sustainable services, including those with a focus on nature based solutions, in collaboration with sectors and communities						
NE10	Develop Green Infrastructure Plan including a green infrastructure network for the County that incorporates ecology, climate change mitigation and adaptation, to increase climate resilience, climate action co-benefits and environmental protection requirements.	Combined	Development of plan. Implementation of plan	Roads	Climate Action Team/Biodiversity Officer/Planning	2025
NE14	Audit all local authority land, carry out ecological/habitat surveys and highlight areas at risk and those suitable for restoration and enhanced carbon storage, also identifying potential wildlife corridors for protection through statutory plan.	Combined	Number of sites audited	Biodiversity Officer	Climate Action Team	2025
NE15	Conduct County wetland survey and implement recommendations in terms of conservation and restoration of wetlands.	Combined	Completion of survey	Biodiversity Officer	Climate Action Team	2024
NE16	Assist with a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, and cultural heritage related sensitivities.	Mitigation	Number of water bodies at risk to extreme weather events	Biodiversity Officer/ Environment	LAWPRO	2025

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

Ref	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Promote and protect our environment and its biodiversity and water catchments as key enablers of climate adaptation and mitigation across the county, through the delivery of sustainable services, including those with a focus on nature based solutions, in collaboration with sectors and communities						
NE18	Development and Implementation of a SUDS policy and continue the prioritisation of SUDS measures in local authority projects ensuring the plan takes nature-based solutions/ protection of biodiversity and avoidance of habitat fragmentation into consideration.	Mitigation	Development of policy. Implementation of Policy	Roads	Climate Action Team	2024
NE21	Prepare a roadside hedgerow management tool kit that informs staff on the value of hedgerows and outlines best practise in their management , having due regard to native hedgerows.	Combined	Completion of tool kit	Biodiversity Officer/Roads	Climate Action Team	2025
NE 22	Cavan County Council will seek to prioritise the delivery of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme identified flood schemes in the county and promote nature-based solutions and integral to these schemes having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.	Mitigation	Number of CFRAMS projects prioritised. Number of CFRAMS projects completed.	Roads	OPW	2029

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

Ref	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To promote green infrastructure as a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity.						
NE2	Pilot a biodiversity-inclusive design for a social housing estate with green roofs, green walls, wetland & pond SUDS, green car parking, nest boxes in facades, grasslands, and wildlife-friendly shrubs and trees in open space having appropriate regard to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria.	Combined	Completion of pilot	Housing Construction	Climate Action Team	2026
NE4	Carry out and require planting of native trees, hedgerows and vegetation on all new developments. All planting should be pollinator friendly and in accordance with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and Pollinator Guidelines for Communities.	Mitigation	Number of new developments	Heritage/ Planning	Climate Action Team	2026
NE8	Development of a pocket park strategy for the County. Promotion of pocket parks in conjunction with urban planning and commercial and intensified residential development. To make the area wildlife friendly.	Combined	Completion of strategy	Biodiversity Officer/Planning	Climate Action Team	2025

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

Ref	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To promote green infrastructure as a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity						
NE9	Develop a native tree strategy to outline vision and plan for long term planning, protection and maintenance of native trees, hedgerows and woodlands.	Combined	Strategy completed	Biodiversity Officer/Planning	Climate Action Team	2025
B15	Promote the integrated planning, design and delivery of green infrastructure (including urban greening) through appropriate provisions in planning policies, development standards, infrastructural, public realm and community projects, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.	Adaptation	Appropriate provision included in policy. Number of developments incorporating green infrastructure	Planning	SMT	2025
NE19	Identifying surplus lands within the ownership of the LA for planting to maximise forestry contribution	Combined	Number of land parcels identified	Housing/MD	Climate Action Team/Biodiversity Officer	2025

Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

Ref	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To protect peatlands from further degradation						
NE17	Integration of peatland soil maps with the council planning map systems to prevent further drainage and degradation.	Combined	Completion of integration of soils map	GIS Officer/Planning	Climate Action Team	2025

Strategic Goal 4



SG 4 To support and empower communities to activate on climate action with enhanced sustainability and resilience

3.9 Communities: Resilience & Transition

Objectives

- ➔ **To build capacity, improve social connectedness and foster cooperation to increase community resilience and transition.**
- ➔ **To promote climate action and climate literacy through training and education in partnership with educational facilities**

Engineering solutions will bring us part of the way to achieving our climate actions. In addition, support to and the support of communities will be required to maximise a broader societal approach and ensure everyone is playing their part in shaping a climate conscious county for future generations.

Provision of information, engagement and participation are key to ensuring meaningful and long-lasting behaviour change is achieved. This is important in so many areas to ensure success in for example, the uptake in active travel and use of public transport, switch to low carbon heat/fuel sources, enhancing the natural environment and maintaining general awareness of climate change, its impacts and also its opportunities.

Encouraging ongoing dialogue with the diverse range of communities is important to hear, respond and work in partnership to address the measures required together.

There are already many active community groups involved in protecting and enhancing the environment and working to delivering on climate obligations in County Cavan to create genuinely sustainable local solutions that work. The Council is committed to working with these groups to enable them to fulfil their ambitions.

Our aim is to inform, engage and promote participation by residents and all types of communities in identifying and delivering local solutions to achieve climate ambitions.

Table 3. 6 Communities: Resilience & Transition

Communities: Resilience & Transition						
Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To build capacity, improve social connectedness and foster cooperation to increase community resilience and transition.						
CR1	Implement an awareness campaign to educate the public on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures including the circular economy, promoting biodiversity, water conservation and carbon reduction initiatives. Promote various funding streams and grants to assist homes, communities and businesses to implement positive climate actions. Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, European sites and biodiversity.	Combined	Number of Education & Awareness campaigns	Environment/ Climate Action Team	Community & Enterprise/LEO	2024
SR 3	Develop sustainability guidelines for corporate events supported, facilitated and organised by Cavan County Council	Combined	Development of guidelines	Corporate	Environment, Climate Action Team	2025
CR6	Include ‘Sustainability and Climate Change’ scoring on relevant grant assessments to ensure that community groups/ stakeholders consider and incorporate Climate Mitigation and Adaptation in all their grant funded activities.	Combined	Number of application forms updated to comply with this objective	SMT/ Community & Enterprise	Climate Action Team	2024
CR9	Support artists, organisations and communities to consider and adopt best practice in their work with regard to climate challenges such as water, environment and biodiversity.	Combined	Number of supports in community	Community & Enterprise/Arts	Climate Action Team	2024

Communities: Resilience & Transition

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To build capacity, improve social connectedness and foster cooperation to increase community resilience and transition.						
CR10	Encourage and support tidy towns organisations, festivals and event organisers to incorporate climate action and sustainability into all events.	Combined	Number of groups supported	Community & Enterprise	Climate Action Team	2025
CR12	Encourage community groups particularly tidy towns groups to consider climate change adaptation in their multi annual plans and programs to reduce climatic risks in their communities.	Mitigation	Number of groups considering climate in annual plans	Community & Enterprise	Climate Action Team	2024
CR13	Increase awareness on regenerative tourism to ensure that visitors have a positive impact on the county as a tourist destination. Ensure all tourism developments integrate sustainable tourism principles into their activities, plans and proposals.	Combined	Climate encompassed to all tourism policies	Tourism Officer/Community & Enterprise	Climate Action Team	2025
CR14	Raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and ways for communities to increase response and resilience to these impacts.	Mitigation	Number of awareness events	Community & Enterprise/ Climate Action Team	PPN	2024

Communities: Resilience & Transition

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To build capacity, improve social connectedness and foster cooperation to increase community resilience and transition.						
CR18	Investigate and utilise funds that provide for cycle routes within 1.5km of all schools, community facilities, sports and youth clubs having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality and cultural heritage.	Adaptation	Number of cycle routes funded in the community	Active Travel	Climate Action Team	2025
CR20	Promote & Implement the Community Climate Action Fund for 2023 - 2026 to engage communities in localised Climate Action Projects.	Combined	Number of grants for climate action projects	Environment/ Climate Action Team	Community & Enterprise	2026
CR22	Keen to be Green Communities: supporting community groups to develop climate awareness projects such as bike repair workshops, clothes swaps, community gardens, green festivals.	Mitigation	Number of initiatives / projects supported	Environment Awareness	PPN	2024
CR25	Promote LEADER projects on sustainability.	Combined	Number of LEADER Projects on sustainability	LEO, Enterprise, Tourism	Climate Action Team	2026
CR26	Provide dedicated Climate Action information on Cavan County Council's website.	Combined	Climate Action space provided	IT/Climate Action Team	IT/ Corporate	2024

Communities: Resilience & Transition

Ref	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To promote climate action and climate literacy through training and education in partnership with educational facilities						
CR4	Engage with youth groups and schools to raise awareness of climate issues and promote positive climate action initiatives. Organise school competitions to promote biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation.	Combined	Number of youth groups/schools engaged	Environment/ Climate Action Team	CMETB/ LEADER	2024
CR5	Partner with Cavan Institute of Education to explore innovative Climate Action Adaptation and Mitigation research projects.	Combined	Number of projects explored with Institute	Environment/ Climate Action Team	CMETB	2024
CR8	Engage, promote and support Green Clubs programme amongst GAA clubs in the county.	Combined	Number of clubs engaged in Programme	Environment/ Climate Action Team	Community & Enterprise, GAA	2024

Communities: Resilience & Transition

Ref	Action	Adaptation /Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: To promote climate action and climate literacy through training and education in partnership with educational facilities						
CR15	Liaise and collaborate with the CARO and the EPA on the implementation of the National Dialogue on Climate Action.	Mitigation	Implement Climate action dialogue in Cavan CC.	Climate Action Team	EPA/CARO	2024
CR23	Support the Green Schools and Heritage in Schools programme to promote biodiversity and climate issues to schools.	Combined	Number of School Engagements	Environment/ Climate Action Team	CMETB	2025
CR24	Engage with schools and An Taisce and provide resources & funding to deliver green flags and achieve green schools status.	Combined	Number of schools engaged	Environment/ Climate Action Team	CMETB/An Taisce	2025

Strategic Goal 5



SG 5 To influence and create a sustainable and resource conscious culture within County Cavan.

3.10 Sustainability & Resource Management

Objectives

- ➔ **To support circular economy initiatives and infrastructure within the County including prevention, reuse, repair and recycling, to lower resource demand and combat the impacts of climate change.**
- ➔ **To support and assist the Business and Enterprise sectors to go green, grow the counties low carbon economy and increase the supply of low carbon good and services.**
- ➔ **To support farmers in diversifying to lower carbon agricultural practices and promotion of sustainable food production within the county.**

It is difficult to comprehend the true impact of our material footprint that stems from our consumption habits. Consumption is extremely diverse and comes from everything to do with our behaviours around energy and water use, clothing purchases, household appliances, food sourcing and travel arrangements. The manufacturing and transportation of consumer goods adds further to the climate challenge that often the consumer may not be aware of.

Our consumption of the natural resources that we depend on threatens the ability of future generations to access and sustainably use those natural resources. However, as with reducing waste, there are a number of ways to address this material footprint, including; reducing non-essential consumption, reusing, repairing and sharing existing goods; finding local producers, and; using more ethical or sustainable options.

The Council is committed to supporting increased levels of sustainability and the management of resources in order to create a vibrant and diverse sustainable local and circular economy; building community knowledge, skills, resilience and resources. It is vital that citizens, communities, business and other organisations are enabled and empowered to affect positive change and improve quality of life through their buying power.

In this regard the Council will focus on the opportunities such as:

- Promotion of green procurement and supply chains in tendering processes,
- Assist businesses and enterprise to “Go Green”, grow the county’s low carbon economy and increase the supply of low carbon goods and services
- Reduce the Council’s consumption of waste, non-essential goods, single use products, energy and water.
- Promote circular economy including sustainable use and end of life management of natural resources.
- Working with communities to tackle over consumption and build knowledge and awareness around reducing, recycling, conserving and repairing where possible.

Table 3. 7 Sustainability & Resource Management

Sustainability & Resource Management						
Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Support circular economy initiatives and infrastructure within the County including prevention, reuse, repair and recycling to lower resource demand and combat the impacts of climate change						
SR 2	Develop and Implement an annual environmental awareness campaign incorporating the objectives of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.	Adaptation	Completion of campaign	Environment	EPA/ WERLA/ My Waste	Annually
SR 5	Increase the number of solar bins across the County.	Adaptation	Number of solar bins installed	Waste	EPA/ WERLA/ My Waste	Annually
SR 6	Continued promotion of circular economy strategies for communities through engagement with community networks.	Adaptation	Report on strategies promoted to communities. Number of annual meetings with networks	C&E, Environment	Climate Action Team	2024
SR 15	Run a pilot scheme to implement water fountains or water refilling stations in the parks within the DZ and measure usage , having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by any built development such as the receiving water environment and local air quality.	Mitigation	Delivery of pilot scheme and measurement of utilisation	Environment/MD/Climate Action Team	Uisce Eireann	2025

Sustainability & Resource Management

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Support circular economy initiatives and infrastructure within the County including prevention, reuse, repair and recycling to lower resource demand and combat the impacts of climate change						
SR17	Regulate and enforce the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) which focus on delivering positive environmental outcomes for air quality, water quality and waste management. Ensure sustainable transport modes are used to travel to and from inspection sites, where feasible.	Adaptation	% compliance with annual targets for Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)	Environment	EPA/ WERLA/ My Waste	Annually
SR18	Implement a wider roll out of segregated brown bin collection systems across the County to capture this resource for treatment in Anaerobic Digestion plants for recovery of biomethane in line with the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. Countywide Awareness Campaign in relation to roll out of Brown Bin using Radio, Print and Social Media.	Adaptation	% Households with Kerbside Brown Bin Access. Number of houses with Brown Bins in place	Waste	EPA/ WERLA/ My Waste	2025
SR19	Increase use of recycling and recovery for bulky household items, hazardous waste, electrical waste and green waste.	Adaptation	% increase in free events for householders; Metric tonnes of bulky household items, hazardous waste, electrical waste and green waste recycled	Environment	WERLA/ My Waste	Annually
SR20	Ensure that all Cavan County Council waste contracts are aligned with the waste hierarchy and minimise disposal and recovery in favour of circular systems and the elimination of single use plastics	Mitigation	% Contracts that Apply Waste Hierarchy in Procurement	Waste/Procurement	EPA/ WERLA/ My Waste	Annually

Sustainability & Resource Management

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Support and assist the Business and Enterprise sectors to go green, grow the counties low carbon economy and increase the supply of low carbon good and services						
SR 9	Develop a climate toolkit for Business to assist Business and Enterprise in the improvement of their environmental profile, reduce GHG's emissions and energy use and transition to the Circular economy model.	Combined	Climate Toolkit for Business develop. Mechanism for delivery implemented and initiated	Climate Action Team	LEO, IDA, EI	2025
SR21	Support the establishment of 'Circular Economy Hubs' that act as physical material hubs for the drop-off and recirculation of materials and products from and for both commercial and residential activities.	Combined	Number of circular economy hubs	Environment, Climate Action Team	LEO, IDA, EI	20254
SR22	Promote greater community and business engagement on climate action, circular economy, energy, water conservation, sustainable mobility and biodiversity through the Community Climate Action Officer, Climate Team and support tools to enable the required behaviour change. The LEO will promote Green Micro, Lean programmes, focused Energy Efficiency Briefing Series and capital programmes demonstrating circular economy. principles with a focus on SMEs.	Combined	Number of direct engagements.	LEO/ PPN/LCDC	LEO, IDA, EI	2024-2029
SR23	Support business in their transition via government initiatives e.g. green for micro.	Mitigation	Number businesses availing of initiatives under scheme	LEO	Enterprise Ireland	

Sustainability & Resource Management

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Support farmers in diversifying to lower carbon agricultural practices and promotion of sustainable food production within the county						
SR 11	Development and implementation of a toolkit that can be utilised by staff during farm inspections to engage with the farmers on climate action. Provision of appropriate training for staff on the utilisation of the toolkit.	Adaptation	Development of toolkit. Number of farmers engaged. Number of training events	Climate Action Team/ Environment	C&E	2025
SR 12	Coordinate and facilitate workshops and the preparation of guidance tools in conjunction with other stakeholders to assist farmers in taking up biodiversity opportunities at farm level, including information on food production, organic, sustainable and regenerative farming techniques or alternatives.	Adaptation	Development of guidance tool. Implementation of tool. Number of farms implementing regenerative or sustainable techniques	Climate Action Team	Biodiversity Officer	2024
SR 13	Promotion of diversification in food production through the economic and enterprise remit. Highlight positive benefits of Locally Grown Food , having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by any built development such as the receiving water environment and local air quality.	Adaptation	Number of promotional events	Climate Action Team	Created in Cavan	Annually
SR 14	Creation of a sustainable agriculture working group for Cavan in association with entities such as Teagasc, Dept of Agriculture and NPWS to support the agricultural sector with their GHG emissions reduction requirement.	Combined	Action Team/ Climate	Climate Action Team	Teagasc, DAFM, NPWS	2024

Sustainability & Resource Management

Ref	Action	Adaptation/ Mitigation	Tracking/ KPI	Lead Dept	Partners	Timeframe
Objective: Support farmers in diversifying to lower carbon agricultural practices and promotion of sustainable food production within the county						
CR11	Support the development of country and farmers' markets as key trading areas for the sale of local agricultural and craft produce and to support their role.	Mitigation	Develop Farmers market in key trading area	Community & Enterprise	Climate Action Team	2024
SR24	Support locally produced sustainable food products. Promote sustainable farm practices.	Combined	Number of events	Climate Action Team	C&E	
SR25	Provide technical supports to farming enterprises in the development of biomethane from Anaerobic Digestion, including guidance on planning and environmental protection requirements, having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by any built development such as the receiving water environment and local air quality.	Combined	Total Tonnes Waste Treated by AD	Climate Action Team/Environment/Planning	Agricultural Sector	2024
SR26	Support and promote the Signpost Advisory Programme to support climate and sustainability actions on farms, having due regard to environmental sensitivities in the area such as European Sites, water quality, air quality, and biodiversity related sensitivities.	Combined	% Farmers signed up to Signpost Programme	Climate Action Team/Environment	DAFM & Teagasc	Annually
SR27	Support farmers in reducing chemical nitrogen fertiliser use by 20% by 2030, increasing the use of protected urea and increasing the uptake of low emission slurry spreading to 90% of farms.	Combined	Chemical Fertiliser Use in the County (tonnes)	Environment/Climate Action Team	DAFM & Teagasc	Annually

4.0 Cavan Town Decarbonising Zone

4.1 Overview

The identification of the Cavan Town Decarbonising Zone was a response to Action 165 within the Government's Climate Action Plan of 2019. This action required Local Authorities to pinpoint and formulate plans for a single Decarbonising Zone within their administrative regions, with submissions due to the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage (DHLGH) in Q2 2021, as outlined in Circular Letter LGSM01-2021.

A Decarbonising Zone (DZ) is defined as a designated area identified by the local authority, within which various measures and stakeholders are identified to address local energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate-related needs. The overarching goal is to achieve national emission reduction targets, including a minimum annual reduction of 7% in carbon emissions until 2030, leading to a cumulative 51% reduction by 2030 and net-zero emissions by the end of 2050 compared to the baseline year of 2018.

Climate policy gained further strength and legal backing with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, along with the publication of the Climate Action Plan 2021. These developments influenced changes in the approach to the delivery of Decarbonising Zones, with the Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications (DECC) taking the lead on local authority climate action planning and Decarbonising Zones.

Recognising the significance of the LA-CAP in promoting community-level climate action, the connection between LA CAP and Decarbonising Zones became instrumental in advancing the latter. To ensure the success of Decarbonising Zones in driving local-level climate change efforts, they were given statutory recognition as part of the LA-CAP. In March 2023, DECC published guidelines for Local Authority Climate Action Plans, including a specific Technical Annex D related to the development of plans for Decarbonising Zones (DZ), which has informed the creation of this chapter.

4.2 Purpose of a Decarbonising Zone

Decarbonising Zones represent designated areas where local authorities and communities collaborate to diminish carbon emissions stemming from their activities. These zones serve as focal points for a broad spectrum of measures related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity, encompassing the identification of projects and outcomes that contribute to achieving the National Climate Objective.

The purpose of a decarbonising zone (DZ) is to strategically combat climate change at the local level by implementing targeted measures and policies to significantly reduce carbon emissions. These zones are designed to:

- ➔ **Reduce Emissions:** DZs aim to curtail greenhouse gas emissions, particularly from sectors like transportation, industry, and energy production, contributing to local and national emission reduction goals.
- ➔ **Promote Sustainability:** They serve as hubs for adopting sustainable practices, including renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency improvements, and the transition away from fossil fuels.
- ➔ **Enhance Resilience:** DZs plan for climate resilience, helping communities prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events.
- ➔ **Support Biodiversity:** DZs often incorporate measures to protect and enhance local biodiversity, safeguarding ecosystems and their services.
- ➔ **Meet National Targets:** By achieving emissions reductions in line with national climate action targets, DZs contribute to broader efforts to mitigate global warming.
- ➔ **Engage Communities:** They encourage community engagement and collaboration, ensuring that local residents have a say in climate action plans and fostering a sense of ownership in sustainability efforts.
- ➔ **Serve as Models:** DZs can serve as exemplars for other regions, showcasing effective climate strategies that can be replicated elsewhere.

In essence, decarbonising zones play a vital role in addressing climate change at the grassroots level, aligning with broader national and global efforts to combat the existential threat of global warming and promote a sustainable, low-carbon future.

4.3 Decarbonising Zone Selection

The selection of a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) area was guided by the criteria outlined in Circular Letter LGSM01-2021, issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage (DHLGH) in February 2021.

Cavan Town was designated as the DZ for Cavan County Council based on its socioeconomic and physical environmental characteristics, which align well with a set of defined DZ criteria. For instance, one of the criteria stipulates a minimum population of 5,000 people, and Cavan Town DZ area exceeds this requirement with approximately 12,455 residents, as per 2022 Central Statistics Office (CSO) data. The Cavan Town DZ encompasses or overlaps with 47 townlands, stretching from Drumalee in the east to Drumbar in the west and from Drumherrish in the north to Drumroosk in the south.

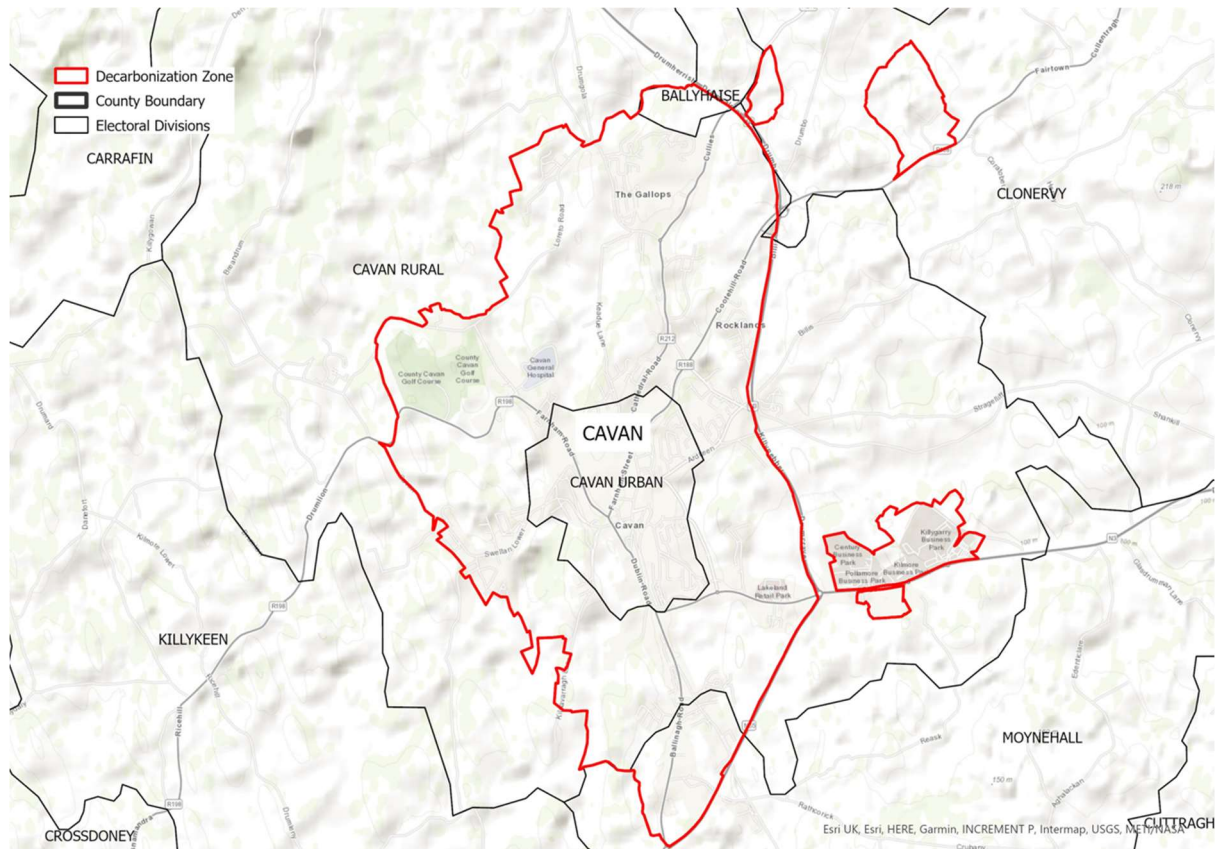


Figure 4. 1 Cavan Decarbonisation Zone

Furthermore, as a Decarbonising Zone, Cavan Town presents abundant opportunities for the development of both new and existing climate projects, addressing a wide array of challenges. These initiatives include improving air quality through increased utilisation of public transportation, active commuting, and the establishment of mobility hubs. Additionally, there are ongoing investigations into enhancing energy sustainability through the implementation of new energy infrastructure, such as upgrades to the electricity network, and by enhancing energy efficiency and promoting renewable heating solutions in residential, public, and commercial buildings. Moreover, opportunities abound for eco-friendly projects that promote biodiversity in both publicly accessible and privately owned land areas.

Ultimately, the vision for the Cavan Town Decarbonising Zone is to serve as a model, showcasing possibilities for reducing carbon emissions and fostering sustainable living practices throughout the county.

4.4 Summary of Cavan Town Decarbonisation Zone Emissions

A Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) was conducted within the Cavan Town Decarbonising Zone to provide an overview of the total carbon emissions at a specific point in time. This assessment serves as a crucial tool that enables Cavan County Council to gauge the impact of planned actions aimed at reducing emissions across its own operations and relevant sectors of the community. The BEI employs an evidence-based approach, not only guiding focus areas for emissions reduction but also serving as a means to track progress over time.

The BEI for the Cavan Town Decarbonising Zone drew guidance from two documents: Technical Annex C for Climate Mitigation Assessment and Technical Annex D for Decarbonising Zones. These guidance documents support a robust approach to assessing and reporting baseline energy and carbon emissions for all local authorities. The DZ BEI Assessment outlines three approaches – Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 – allowing local authorities with varying levels of experience to develop a BEI. The Cavan County Council DZ BEI follows a Tier 3 approach, characterised by a 'bottom-up, spatially led' methodology.

The reference year for all assessments is 2018, aligning with Ireland's national targets. The BEI encompasses both direct and indirect emissions, providing a snapshot of carbon emissions across all sectors of the economy within the Local Authority's jurisdiction.

Emissions from sectors, as defined by the National Emissions Inventory, were considered in the BEI Assessment. Notably, sectors like Industrial Processes, Land Use, and Use Change & Forestry (LULUCF) were excluded due to their negligible presence within the DZ area. However, emissions associated with sectors such as Residential, Commercial & Public Sector, Transport, Waste, and Agriculture were examined in this BEI assessment due to their relevance in the DZ area.



The results of the ‘bottom-up’ Tier 3 assessment are presented on the table and chart below. Total Carbon emissions equate to approximately 71,398 tCO₂e. This translates to **5.85 tCO₂e per capita** based on 2016 census population data. Ireland’s national carbon emissions equated to approximately 12.6 tCO₂e/capita. While the DZ’s carbon emissions per capita is lower than the national equivalent, Ireland is higher than the EU average of 8.2 tCO₂e/capita.

A full comprehensive report on the Baseline Emissions Assessment for the Decarbonisation Zone is presented in Appendix D.

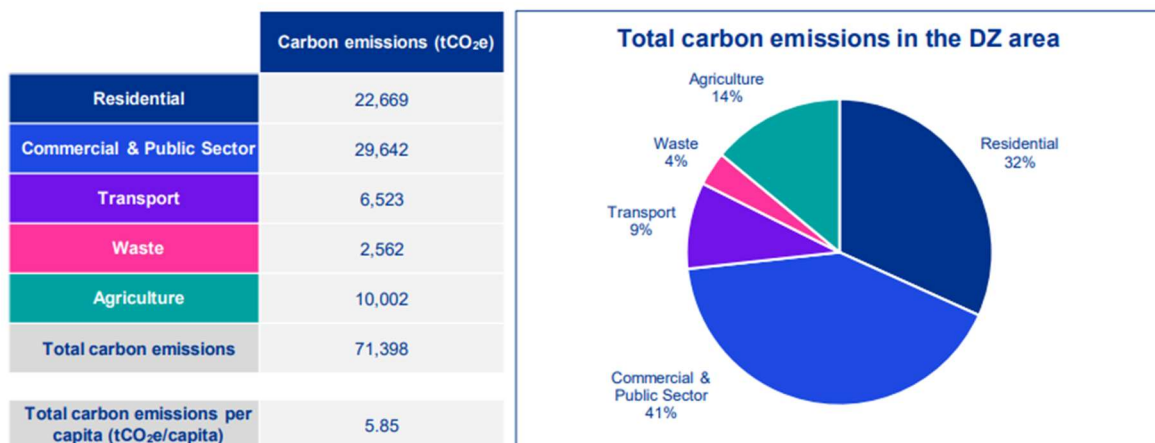


Figure 4. 2 Total Carbon emissions in the DZ

4.4.1 Commercial & Public Sector

The commercial & public sector accounts for the largest DZ's carbon emissions at 41% equating to approximately 29,642 tCO₂e. Total energy consumption of the sector equates to 106,523 MWh. The 234 commercial, business and other buildings within the DZ primarily rely upon electricity as their main fuel source. Electricity is used to power 51% of commercial buildings in the DZ. The largest number of commercial and public sector buildings are in the Cavan Rural ED, followed by Cavan Urban. Commercial and public sector building types are broken down into three categories: 'Business', 'Commercial' and 'Other'.

- ➡ 'Business' category refers to building types including restaurants, shopping centres, and mixed use.
- ➡ 'Commercial' category refers to building types including banks, cinemas, factories, and libraries.
- ➡ 'Other' category refers to building types including car parks, schools, colleges, and electricity stations.

4.4.2 Residential

The residential sector is accountable for 32% of carbon emissions within the Cavan DZ area, equating to approximately 22,669 tCO₂e. Total energy consumption of the residential sector equates to 82,307 MWh/year.

The 4,520 'Houses' within the DZ account for 94% of both the sector's total energy consumption and carbon emissions with 542 'Apartments' within the DZ account for the remaining 6% of total residential and carbon emissions.

Within the Cavan DZ area, there are a range of fuel types used for the heating of properties. The data shows that oil is the most prominent fuel source at 63%, and it accounts for both the greatest amount of energy consumption and carbon emissions within the DZ area. This is followed electricity, natural gas and coal.

4.4.3 Agricultural

Agricultural activities in the Cavan DZ area account for 14% (10,002 tCO₂e) of the DZ area's total carbon emissions, as well as a large part of economic activities. Beef, dairy and sheep farming are the most common farming activities within the DZ area. The total number of livestock within the DZ is 4,677. This comprises Beef cattle, dairy cows and sheep. Methane emissions produced by livestock enteric fermentation is one of the main contributors to agriculture's total carbon emissions. Farming activities occur predominantly in the Cavan Rural ED.

4.4.4 Transport

Private cars account for the highest proportion of carbon emissions within the DZ. The total carbon emissions of the transport sector within the DZ area equate to 9.14 % of total emissions or 6,523 tCO₂e. Private car use equates to 3,453 tCO₂e (53%) of carbon emissions within the Cavan DZ. Road freight and light goods vehicles account for 2,904 tCO₂e (44%) while public transport accounts for 166 tCO₂e (3%) coming from public transport. Petrol and diesel are the most common sources of fuel for transport and account for 99.95% of fuel used. Just 0.05% rely on electricity for transport fuel.

4.4.5 Waste

The waste sector accounts for approximately 3.59% of Cavan's DZ carbon emissions. Cavan Waste Disposal Ltd, Corranure Landfill and an Urban Wastewater Treatment plant lie within the boundary of the DZ. To calculate waste-related emissions from within the DZ, a benchmark for waste related carbon emissions of 0.21 tCO₂e/head of population was been used. On this basis, it can be estimated that waste related carbon emissions within the boundary of DZ area are approximately 2,562 tCO₂e.

4.5 Summery of Register of Opportunities

A register of opportunities identifies and compiles a collection of projects, activities, technologies, and measures encompassing mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity strategies. Its purpose is to achieve energy and emission reduction goals throughout the DZ. A specific opportunities registry has been created for Cavan Town, with each opportunity's potential for carbon reduction quantified in relation to its contribution to lowering carbon emissions across the DZ. These potential carbon reductions have been evaluated against the national target of a 51% reduction by 2030. The opportunities registry has played a crucial role in shaping the development of action and implementation plans. To create the opportunities registry for the Cavan DZ, a series of actions has been taken including the completion of a Decarbonisation Zone workshop.

The workshop was comprised of the senior management team members, department heads, and additional project-specific personnel from Cavan County Council. The workshop began with a short presentation explaining the purpose and extent of the Decarbonising Zone, highlighting the various prospects related to climate adaptation and mitigation actions tailored to the Cavan Town Decarbonising Zone. Subsequently, attendees engaged in discussion groups aimed at delineating potential actions and opportunities that could contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within the area. The findings from the workshop discussion groups were subsequently utilised to create a Register of Opportunities and DZ specific Actions as outlined in the subsequent sections.

The 2018 Baseline Emissions Inventory for the Cavan Decarbonising Zone (DZ) amounted to 71,398 tCO₂e. The following table illustrates the necessary reductions required within each sector to reach the 51% reduction goal, along with the anticipated emission reductions based on the opportunities detailed in this report. These opportunities encompass actions that fall under the direct purview of Cavan County Council and those that the council can actively influence and support.

Table 4. 1 DZ Reduction Requirements

Sector	2018 BEI (tCO ₂ e)	2018 Reduction Target (tCO ₂ e)	2030 Reduction Target (% of 2018 BEI)	Projected Reduction 2030 (tCO ₂ e)	Projected (Reduction 2030 (% of 2018 BEI)	Based on the Following Opportunities
Private Residential	18,936	9,657	-51%	9,374	49%	This reduction is based on improving BER of 60% of all residential housing units to B2 (minimum) and the installation of Solar PV on 60% of all properties
Social Housing	3,733	1,904	-51%	1,936	52%	This reduction is based on improving the BER of 75% of social housing units under Cavan County Council's control to B2 (minimum) and the installation of Solar PV on 75% of the properties
Commercial & Public Sector	28,367	14,467	-51%	18,764	66%	Improving energy efficiency of 75% of buildings, installing solar PV and swapping 75% fossil fuel consumption (gas and kerosene) for low carbon fuel in the DZ
Transport	6,523	3,327	-51%	3,940	60%	Active travel opportunities decreases the total km travelled by private car in the DZ by 20%. Electrification of 50% of private cars. HVO is used by 75% of freight in the DZ
Municipal (electricity supply*)	1,275	650	-51%	1,275	100%	Electricity supply for all LA buildings in DZ is procured via renewables sources . Upgrade all public lighting to efficient LED .
Agriculture	10,002	5,101	-51%	2,921	29%	Diversification options for farmers and alternative fuel sources for farm machinery (e.g. HVO) will allow for a reduction in agricultural related emissions
Waste	2,562	1,307	-51%	641	25%	Improved composting rates and increasing access to recycling facilities reduce waste emissions
Total	71,398	36,412	-51%	38,851	-55%	<i>Note: Some numbers might not add up due to rounding</i>

DZ categorisations offer a unique chance for communities, local authorities, and the public sector to set an example and capitalise on existing assets and services for pioneering decarbonisation and sustainability ventures. Leveraging its physical environment and socio-economic characteristics, Cavan Town DZ boasts a robust foundation of resources and services to foster decarbonisation opportunities.

Enhancing Energy Efficiency: Cavan County Council's Socio-Economic Statement for 2023 aligns with DZ objectives by prioritising sustainability and exploring renewable energy for the rejuvenation of towns and localities. Notably, there are 4,235 inhabited dwellings within the DZ, with approximately 57% of the building stock predating 2000, presenting ample prospects for enhancing energy efficiency through retrofitting. Retrofitting extends to aging housing, social housing units, and commercial buildings, offering the potential to improve Building Energy Ratings (BER) and curtail overall emissions. Scaling up residential technologies like heat pumps, district heating, and renewable energy sources is also applicable to commercial and public sector buildings, pivotal for realizing decarbonisation goals within the DZ.

Advancing Active Travel and Sustainable Transportation: About 71% of commuting to and from the DZ occurs by private car, with 22% relying on public transport, cycling, or walking. Although these commutes extend beyond the DZ boundary, they underscore opportunities for decarbonising transportation and promoting active travel options to reduce vehicle emissions. Safe cycling routes and greenways can be established. The DZ also functions as a public transport hub, with multiple bus stops passing through, offering prospects for enhancing sustainable public transport options and electrification investments.

Utilising Space for Innovation: Within the DZ, there are sites ripe for innovative decarbonisation endeavours. For instance, the Corranure Landfill, an EPA-licensed former landfill site, while no longer in operation, still emits carbon dioxide and methane due to organic matter decomposition. This site holds potential for renewable energy development, in line with DZ decarbonisation efforts, as outlined in a recent feasibility study conducted for Cavan County Council.

Leveraging Natural and Cultural Heritage: In 2016, Cavan County Council devised a Tourism Development Plan to encourage growth and harness the area's natural heritage. Opportunities exist to attract more visitors to the DZ by promoting its rich natural assets, such as drumlins, lakes, hedgerows, and green spaces. Additionally, there are underutilised built heritage assets that could be developed to draw visitors to the DZ.

Fostering Community Awareness: In County Cavan, there are 11 Sustainable Energy Communities, with one located within the DZ. This highlights the local community's interest in sustainability and decarbonisation promotion. These communities serve as exemplars of best practices and offer valuable insights for residential areas within the DZ. Furthermore, there are opportunities for increased collaboration between local authorities and the community, including resident upskilling to promote behavioural change, building internal capacity, and providing support services for innovation and knowledge sharing, for instance, through initiatives like GAA Green Clubs and Tidy Towns.

The full comprehensive report on the DZ register of opportunities and actions is included in Appendix G.

4.6 Enabling Opportunities

As illustrated in figure 4.3, the register of opportunities developed for the Cavan Town Decarbonisation Zone provides for the potential to exceed the 51% emissions reduction target and for an overall emissions reduction of ~55% (38,851 tCO₂) by 2030. In addition to the technical opportunities that will have a quantifiable impact on carbon emissions (as identified in the Register of Opportunities), a number of 'enabling' opportunities have also been identified for the Cavan Town DZ.

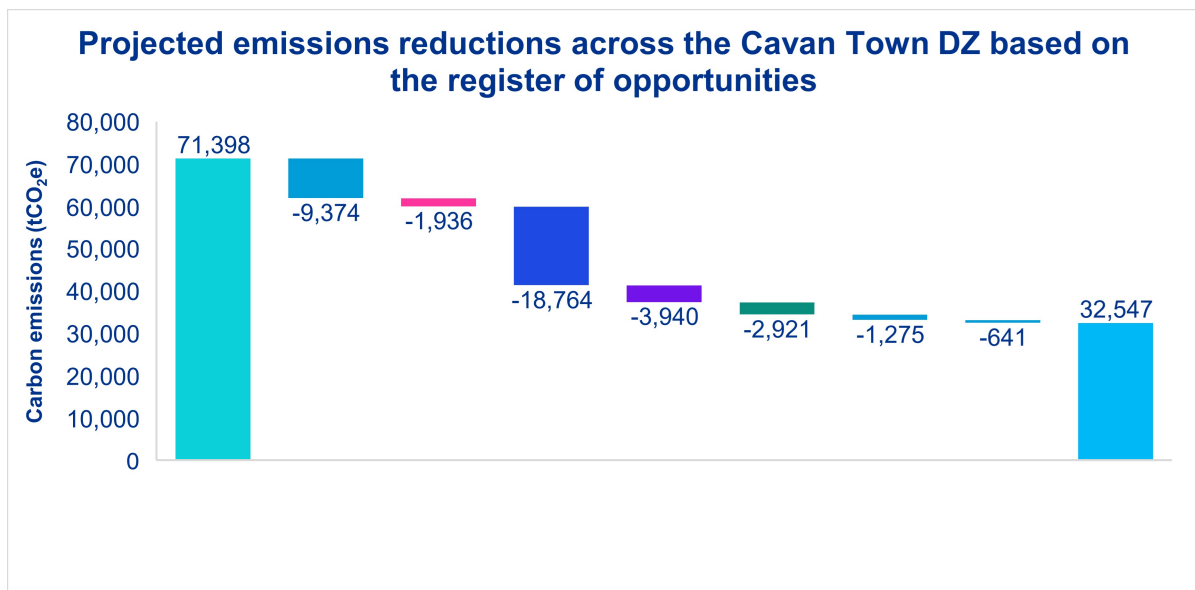


Figure 4. 3 Projected Emissions Reductions across DZ

These less tangible opportunities which promote home retrofit, active travel and sustainability will have a significant impact in enabling the decarbonisation of the Cavan Town DZ.

- ➔ Support and sustain the SEAI **Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)** in operation in the Cavan Town DZ. This SEC helps to increase awareness of energy efficiency and decarbonisation, development of a community energy masterplan, and highlights funding supports.
- ➔ A **Community Energy Hub / demonstration** would increase awareness amongst the community of energy efficiency, decarbonisation and associated environmental and financial benefits.
- ➔ Development of a **'smarter' network for public transport** which would promote a modal shift from private to public transport through the provision of comprehensive and up-to-date information on public transport options within Cavan Town alongside services where required.
- ➔ The removal of **disposable coffee cups and single use items** from Cavan Town would decrease waste produced within the DZ and provide circular economy benefits.
- ➔ Establishment of a **Cycle Bus Scheme** for schools would reduce car journeys and provide co-benefits in terms of improved health and enhanced air quality.
- ➔ Developing **community allotments** alongside orchards and wildflowers to enhance knowledge and visibility of enhanced biodiversity in the town.

4.7 Decarbonising Zone Actions

Table 4. 2 Governance & Leadership

Actions in bold indicate where CCC have direct control of implementation





 Governance and Leadership		DZ Objectives: 1. Ensure suitable governance exists to deliver the Cavan Town DZ Actions 2. Ensure adequate funding is in place to deliver the Cavan Town DZ Actions 3. Ensure Cavan County Council is as a leader in implementing climate and biodiversity measures					
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/ Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	External Partners	Timeframe	Objective Addressed
GL.1	Implement a monitoring and reporting programme on the implementation of the Cavan Town DZ actions	Both	Number of annual reports	Climate Action Unit	Information Technology	Annual	1
GL.2	Identify possible funding options available for the actions identified in the Cavan Town DZ plan	Both	Number of options identified	Climate Action Unit	All Sections	2024	2
GL.3	Commit the required budget to fund the actions listed in the Cavan Town DZ Plan	Both	Total annual spend	Senior Management Team	Finance	Annual	2
GL.4	Support the development of formal links between community, business and education (Cavan Institute) bodies to facilitate collaborative climate action	Both	Number of links established	Climate Action Unit, LEO, PPN	Town Team, Cavan Institute, Chamber of Commerce	2025	3
GL.5	Ensure council spending in the Cavan Town DZ is fully aligned with green procurement practices	Both	Percentage of Green Public Procurement Spend	Finance, Procurement	None	Annual	1,3
GL.6	Promote best practice climate action case studies internally	Both	Number of of case studies	Climate Action Unit	None	Annual	3
GL.7	Establish a dedicated landing page for the publication of climate action updates, achievements, and developments within the DZ	Both	Landing page developed	Social Media Officer	All sections	Annual	1

Table 4. 3 Built Environment & Transport

Actions in bold indicate where CCC have direct control of implementation

 Built Environment		DZ Objectives: 1. Retrofit local authority buildings across Cavan Town 2. Promote the retrofit of private buildings across Cavan Town and ensure all new buildings are zero energy 3. Enhance the resilience of the built environment to climate impacts					
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	External Partners	Timeframe	Objective Addressed
BE.1	Continue to retrofit all social housing and local authority buildings in the Cavan Town DZ to achieve a minimum Building Energy Rating of B2, having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works	Mitigation	Number of social housing units with a BER of B2	Housing	Energy Officer, Finance, SEAI	Annual	1
BE.2	Assess the feasibility and where feasible install rooftop solar PV on social housing and local authority property across the Cavan Town DZ having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.	Mitigation	Study Conducted	Housing	Energy Officer, Climate Action Unit, SEAI	Annual	1
BE.3	Implement sensor lighting in all common areas and corridors of suitable CCC buildings	Mitigation	Percentage of lighting upgraded	Corporate Assets	None	Annual	1
BE.4	Promote retrofit to Building Energy Rating B2 for private and commercial properties across the Cavan Town DZ having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works	Mitigation	Number of engagement events held	Community and Enterprise, LEO	Energy Officer, SEAI	Annual	2

 Built Environment		DZ Objectives: 1. Retrofit local authority buildings across Cavan Town 2. Promote the retrofit of private buildings across Cavan Town and ensure all new buildings are zero energy 3. Enhance the resilience of the built environment to climate impacts					
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	External Partners	Timeframe	Objective Addressed
BE.5	Undertake a study to assess the vacancy rate of residential dwellings in the DZ	Mitigation	Feasibility study conducted	Town Regeneration Officer	DHLGH	2024	1
BE.6	Develop exemplar retrofitting projects to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species	Both	Number of exemplar projects delivered	Town Regeneration Officer	The Heritage Council	Annual	1
BE.7	Identify, incentivise, and support the provision of co-working facilities within the DZ	Mitigation	Delivery of a co-working facility	C&E, LEO, Planning	None	2026	1
BE.8	Prioritise completion of CFRAMS identified flood schemes within the DZ to ensure all current and future flood risks are identified	Adaptation	Monitoring and reporting	Capital Office	None	Annual	3
BE.9	Utilise available funding to carry out flood protection works having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value	Adaptation	Number of protection works carried out	Capital Office	None	Annual	3

 Transport		DZ Objectives: 1. Promote a modal shift from private to public transport in Cavan Town 2. Support the development of active travel infrastructure, cycling and walking initiatives 3. Promote and enable the transition of vehicles within the Cavan Town DZ to electric or other low-carbon transport options					
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	External Partners	Timeframe	Objective Addressed
T.1	Undertake an Active Travel study to identify and prioritise the most effective measures ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations	Mitigation	Study conducted	Active Travel	Climate Action Unit	2025	4
T.2	Examine and identify active travel funding streams	Mitigation	Number of funds identified	Active Travel	None	2025	4
T.3	Assess the feasibility of a bike rental / electric bike scheme in the Cavan Town DZ.	Mitigation	Study conducted	Roads	None	2025	3, 4
T.4	Discuss potential for a feasibility study of free public transport options with public transport representatives	Mitigation	Study conducted	Roads, Transportation, Active Travel	None	2025	3
T.5	Identify suitable locations for EV charging points at across the Cavan Town DZ having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage	Mitigation	Study conducted	Roads	Energy Officer, Planning, Climate Action Unit	2025	5
T.6	Work with businesses to promote climate friendly transport, e.g., last kilometre delivery	Mitigation	Percentage reduction in road traffic Cavan Town Centre	LEO	Community and Enterprise	Annual	3,5



 Transport		DZ Objectives: 1. Promote a modal shift from private to public transport in Cavan Town 2. Support the development of active travel infrastructure, cycling and walking initiatives 3. Promote and enable the transition of vehicles within the Cavan Town DZ to electric or other low-carbon transport options					
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	External Partners	Timeframe	Objective Addressed
T.7	Engage with the relevant authorities to support the electrification of Local Link whilst advocating and exerting influence to support sustainability and environmental protection considerations being embedded into the project	Mitigation	Number of meetings held with TFI	Roads	TFI	2029	3,5
T.8	Promote, support & incentivise safe cycling/walking routes for schools within DZ area having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage	Combined	Number of safe routes identified	Active Travel, Roads	Schools, An Taisce	2025	1, 2
T.9	Increase pedestrianised space in Cavan Town having appropriate regard to environmental sensitivities such as traffic and transport constraints and aspects, the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage	Combined	No. of active travel measures implemented	Planning	Roads	Annual	1,2
T.10	Implement phase two of the Cavan Town fully segregated greenway whilst having appropriate regard to planning and environmental considerations	Combined	Number of kilometres of greenway delivered	Roads, Transportation, Active Travel	Planning Section	2029	1,2
T.11	Support a private service provider in carrying out a feasibility to assess the potential for a Park and Ride facility within the DZ having appropriate regard to planning and environmental considerations	Mitigation	Feasibility Study conducted	Roads	Planning	2025	1,2
T.12	Where appropriate, use low-carbon pavement material within works on the DZ's road network	Mitigation	Percentage of low-carbon pavement material utilised	Roads, Transportation	DoT	Annual	2,3
T.13	Complete pilot project for smarter travel programme within one of Cavan County Council's offices	Mitigation	Pilot project complete	Active Travel	Energy Officer, TFI, Climate Action Unit	2025	1

Table 4. 4 Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure

Actions in bold indicate where CCC have direct control of implementation

 Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure		DZ Objectives: 1. Enhance and protect the natural environment and biodiversity of Cavan Town 2. Support nature-based solutions for climate resilience and emission reductions whilst promoting enriched biodiversity 3. Create vibrant green infrastructure for the community					
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	External Partners	Timeframe	Objective Addressed
NGI.1	Develop a green infrastructure masterplan for Cavan Town to coordinate planning for and enhancement of the natural environment, biodiversity and green areas having due regard for environmental protection considerations and opportunities for climate action co-benefits.	Both	Plan Developed	Planning	Environment Section, Climate Action Unit	2025	1, 2, 3
NGI.2	Carry out a habitat survey of local authority land within the DZ to identify areas at risk and those suitable for restoration works	Both	Survey carried out	Biodiversity	Heritage	2025	1
NGI.3	Promote biodiversity gain and carbon sequestration in Cavan Town through strategic planting of native species for all new developments	Both	Number of Native Trees/Plants Planted	Biodiversity	Municipal Districts, Horticulturist	2025	2
NGI.4	Support the creation of public and connected green spaces in Cavan Town to enhance health and wellbeing and biodiversity (e.g. pocket parks) having due regard for planning and development policy and environmental protection considerations during the <u>masterplanning</u> and development process	Both	Hectares of Green Space	Biodiversity, Planning	None	2026	1, 2, 3
NGI.5	Support green infrastructure and <u>nature based</u> solutions such as sustainable urban drainage systems to improve climate resilience having due regard to environmental sensitivities including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value	Adaptation	Percentage Hectares served by Sustainable Drainage Schemes	Planning	Environment Section, Climate Action Unit	2029	2

Actions in bold indicate where CCC have direct control of implementation


 Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure		DZ Objectives: 1. Enhance and protect the natural environment and biodiversity of Cavan Town 2. Support nature-based solutions for climate resilience and emission reductions whilst promoting enriched biodiversity 3. Create vibrant green infrastructure for the community					
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/ Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	External Partners	Timeframe	Objective Addressed
NGI.6	Promote rain-water harvesting, reuse of grey water and green roofs and walls having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works	Adaptation	Number of projects	Planning	Municipal Districts	Annual	2
NGI.7	Introduce organic and recycling bins at strategic locations across the DZ	Mitigation	Number of recycling bins installed	Climate Action and Environment	None	2025	1
NGI.8	Support the transition of the agricultural sector to more sustainable farming techniques through programmes such as Teagasc's Signpost programme	Both	Number of farms assisted	Climate Action and Environment	Teagasc	2025	1
NGI.9	Identify and preserve high value carbon sinks within the DZ	Both	Number of carbon sinks identified	Planning	Climate Action Unit	2025	1, 2, 3

Table 4. 5 Communities: Resilience & Transition

Actions in bold indicate where CCC have direct control of implementation




 Communities: Resilience/ Transition		DZ Objectives: 1. To engage and support communities and citizens to deliver local climate actions to enhance sustainability and resilience 2. Empower community and business climate champions to lead by example 3. Promote energy efficiency, retrofitting and climate action amongst the community					
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	External Partners	Timeframe	Objective Addressed
CRT.1	Develop annual communications plan to raise awareness of the DZ and engage citizens in climate action	Both	Plan Developed	Community and Enterprise	Corporate Services	Annual	1
CRT.2	Develop a range of <u>age appropriate</u> informational supports to provide citizens with knowledge to understand and implement the transition in their own lives	Both	Number of information supports developed	Community and Enterprise	None	2024	1
CRT.3	Identify, train, and resource ‘Sustainability Champions’ who can act as ambassador businesses for their sectors to encourage other companies within the DZ	Both	Number of champions trained	LEO	Climate Action Unit	2025	2
CRT.4	Facilitate the distribution of Energy Saving Kits to the public through local libraries	Mitigation	Number of kits distributed	Libraries	None	Annual	3
CRT.5	Support the work of the Sustainable Energy Community within Cavan Town	Mitigation	Number of engagements held with SEC	Community and Enterprise	Energy Officer, LEO	2025	3
CRT.6	Use Digital Technology to highlight issues such as air pollution and promote awareness through schools and intergenerational projects	Mitigation	Awareness programme delivered	Climate Action Unit	Environment Section, EPA	2025	3
CRT.7	Hold a one-stop-shop event to promote appropriate retrofitting of private buildings and increase community understanding of climate action	Both	One-stop event held	Libraries	None	Annual	3

Table 4. 6 Sustainability & Resource Management

Actions in bold indicate where CCC have direct control of implementation

 Sustainable Resource Management		DZ Objectives: 1. Ensure that Cavan County Council creates a sustainable, low carbon and circular economy within its own organisation 2. Promote and support communities in delivering actions in support of a sustainable economy					
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	External Partners	Timeframe	Objective Addressed
SRM.1	Ensure CCC procure 100% renewable electricity where possible	Mitigation	% of renewable electricity procured	Corporate Services	Energy Officer, Procurement	2029	2
SRM.2	Ensure CCC procurement is fully aligned with green public procurement and circular economy (e.g., no single use products)	Mitigation	No single use products procured	Procurement	Corporate Services	2024	1
SRM.3	Develop informational supports to promote the concept of share, reuse and repair amongst communities	Both	No. of supports developed	Environment Section	Climate Action Unit	2024	2
SRM.4	Support the development of sustainable and circular economy infrastructure whilst ensuring such infrastructure is appropriately located and designed, and operates in accordance with the provisions of the Waste Management Act and in a manner that does not cause negative environmental impacts or localize nuisance	Both	No. of projects supported	Environment Section	Climate Action Unit	Annual	2
SRM.5	Install solar compactor bins with smart collection facility	Mitigation	No. of solar compactor bins installed	Municipal District	Environment Section	Annual	1
SRM.6	Partake in any such feasibility study of the potential for district heating for Cavan Town ensuring this study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations	Mitigation	Feasibility study conducted	Climate Action Unit	Energy Officer, Corporate Assets	2024	1,2

Actions in bold indicate where CCC have direct control of implementation

 Sustainable Resource Management		DZ Objectives: 1. Ensure that Cavan County Council creates a sustainable, low carbon and circular economy within its own organisation 2. Promote and support communities in delivering actions in support of a sustainable economy					
Action #	Action	Type (Mitigation/Adaptation/Both)	KPI	Lead Dept.	External Partners	Timeframe	Objective Addressed
SRM.7	Encourage waste service providers to provide for the rollout of organic waste bins across household, commercial and public bin collection.	Mitigation	Percentage of Organic bin use	Environment Section	None	2024	2
SRM.8	Engage with local industrial sector regarding the impact on air quality from industrial emissions	Mitigation	Number of organisations engaged	Environment Section	EPA	2025	2
SRM.9	To maximise the development potential of the <u>Corranure Landbank</u> as a renewable energy hub, ensuring environmental considerations are integrated into the design phase to promote win-win outcomes for aspects such as biodiversity	Mitigation	Feasibility study conducted	Environment Section	Planning	2025	1

5.0 Implementation and Reporting

5.1 Planning for implementation

Cavan County Council will oversee the execution of this preliminary LA-CAP. While the plan demands a comprehensive approach from the entire council, the Environment, Climate Action, and Active Travel Directorate are the custodians of the LA-CAP.

In 2023, Cavan County Council established a Climate Action Team comprising a Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer, and Community Climate Action Officer. This team's mission is to integrate climate action into the council's operations, oversee action implementation, and coordinate the plan's reporting and evaluation after adoption by the Elected Members. The core Climate Action Team collaborates with various climate action teams, subgroups, and subcommittees throughout the organisation, each responsible for specific actions outlined in the Plan. These encompass diverse departments and sections such as Biodiversity & Heritage, Environment & Water, Roads & Greenways, Fleet Management, Active Travel, Housing, Corporate & HR, Procurement, LEO, Community, Enterprise & Tourism, Arts and Culture, and Planning. The core Climate Action Team also serves as the primary contact point for the public regarding climate action in the County.

Cavan County Council will collaborate with key stakeholders to support the Plan implementation, including neighbouring local authorities like Monaghan, Leitrim, Meath, Longford and Westmeath, the Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office, training groups, regional assemblies, governmental agencies, public participation networks, youth councils, local enterprise offices, and more. These partnerships offer opportunities for joint projects, shared knowledge, technical assistance, and accessing funding during plan implementation.

Recognising that climate change transcends political and geographical boundaries, regional cooperation has been agreed upon by local authorities in the Eastern & Midlands CARO region to closely collaborate on implementing the LA-CAPs.

Following approval of the Plan, an Implementation Plan will be developed for each action, which will set out in detail how the action will be delivered including, noting the responsible department and timescales. Cavan County Council will align the timing of internal implementation reporting intervals with that of sectoral progress reporting requirements.

5.2 Funding and Partnerships

In order to lead by example and propel the transition towards a climate-neutral society, Cavan County Council must secure adequate funding for climate action initiatives aimed at realising its 2030 and 2050 objectives. Local authorities have access to a variety of funding sources, including government grants, European funding, private sector investments, and community co-financing. It's worth noting that while new funding opportunities targeted at climate action may emerge in the future, established funding bodies are already introducing or increasing the allocation of funds to support climate action initiatives. Cavan County Council will actively pursue both new and existing funding prospects from European and national entities that align with its climate action goals. The following list outlines Cavan County Councils recently finalised and currently active projects which fall within the realm of climate action:

- Initiation of pathfinder project involving the upgrade and retrofitting of the five highest energy use buildings to a minimum B BER. This project is due to be completed in 2025.
- Completion of numerous cycle schemes, footpaths, permeability links and safe school zones.
- Completion of upgrades to numerous bring centre recycling sites and implementation of additional sites across the county.
- Provision of free and subsidised waste collection days.
- Installation of smart solar compacting bins at various locations across the county.
- Completion of energy upgrades on social housing to BER B2 rating under the Department of Housing Energy Retrofit Programme.

Partnerships are a crucial element in realising low-carbon solutions within this sector. The private sector is already actively contributing to achieving the National Climate Objective, and such partnerships have the potential to significantly enhance the sector's capabilities in driving Ireland's greenhouse gas reductions by 51% by 2030 and ultimately achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

Furthermore, partnerships with the Third Level sector offer advantages to the local government sector. The Third Level sector can provide valuable research and development expertise, aiding local authorities in implementing innovative solutions to curtail greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Additionally, these collaborations can facilitate local authorities' access to funding opportunities for climate action projects and initiatives. Cavan County Council will actively promote and facilitate cooperation with both the private sector and the Third Level sector whenever feasible.

5.3 Dependencies

It is important to note that the delivery of actions contained in this plan will be dependent upon a number of factors including:

- ➔ **Stakeholder buy-in:** A stakeholder is anyone who impacts on, or is impacted by an action. To deliver the actions contained within this plan, stakeholder buy-in will be essential. Examples of stakeholders include residents, community organisations, businesses, and public sector bodies.
- ➔ **Available Funding:** Actions often required funding outside of the local authorities' assigned budgets and the availability of funding from external government and non-governmental sources will be a key determinant in the delivery of some actions contained in this plan.
- ➔ **Resources:** Actions may require resources in order to be implemented. Resources required for an action can range from people and information to materials and energy.
- ➔ **Prior/Perquisite actions:** Actions contained in this plan can be dependent on the delivery of prerequisite actions e.g., a feasibility study may be required prior the installation of renewable technologies

5.4 Tracking progress of climate actions

Performance by Cavan County Council on the delivery of energy efficiency and emission reductions relating to the Council's infrastructure and assets, as prescribed by national climate obligations, will continue to be tracked through the established Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system managed by the Sustainable Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

For actions outside of this, one of the reporting avenues that Cavan County Council engages with to communicate progress on the delivery of actions is through Sectoral Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This informs the performance of the local government sector on climate action.

Strengthened climate action policy at national level inspired a determined response and commitment by local government, as a sector. This commitment is set out in the County and City Management Association (CCMA) published strategy on behalf of local government entitled *Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030^[1] (DECA 2021)*.

^[1] [1] Published 14th April 2021: County and City Management Association [CCMA] (2021): Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030: Local authority sector strategy for delivering on the Climate Action Charter and LA-CAP. Dublin: Local Government Management Agency [LGMA]. Available online at: [delivering-effective-climate-action-2030.pdf \(lgma.ie\)](https://www.lgma.ie/sites/default/files/2021-04/delivering-effective-climate-action-2030.pdf)

A key consideration for the local government sector on this strengthened role on climate action is accountability, and in particular the ability to track, measure and report on progress in delivering effective climate action at both local authority and sectoral levels. In this regard, KPIs will continue to play a significant role.

The CAROs along with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) collect data on an annual basis relating to a range of themes including:

- Climate Action Resources;
- Climate Action Training for local authority staff and elected members;
- Actions delivered;
- Enterprise support in are of climate action;
- Energy efficiency;
- Emission reductions;
- Active travel measures; and
- Severe weather response.

KPIs will continue to be added as necessary by the sector and Cavan County Council will contribute relevant information as required, to assist in highlighting the progress of the local government sector on climate action.

5.5 Reporting Requirements and Arrangements

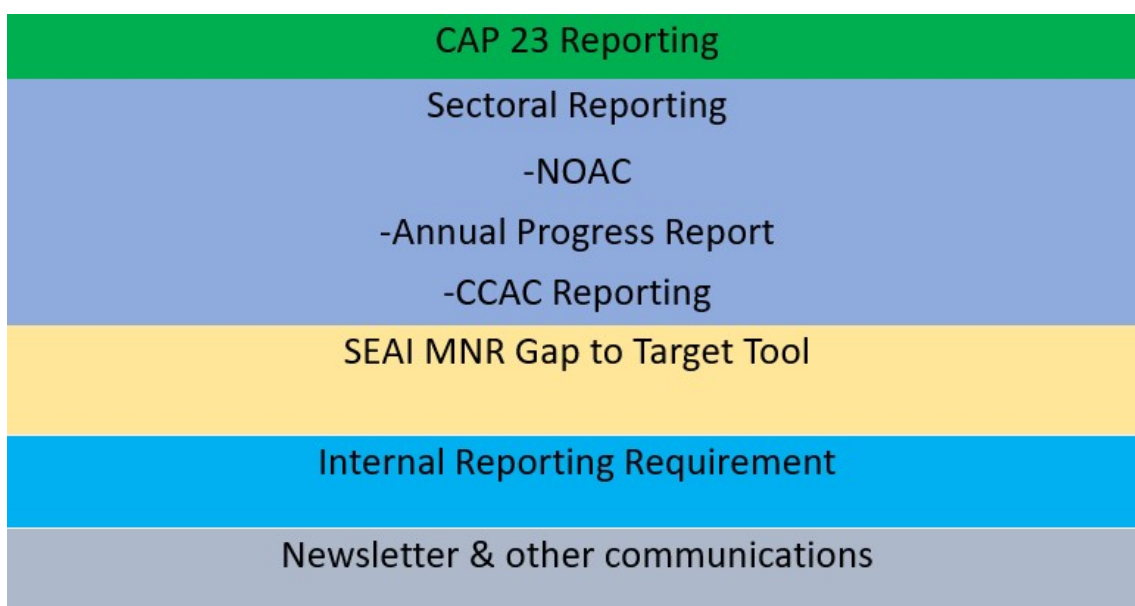


Figure 5. 1 Reporting Structures

5.4.1 Internal Reporting

To ensure that delivery is timely, the implementation of the Plan will be monitored via an in-house tracking system. The local authority will also facilitate reporting to elected members on a biannual basis.

5.4.2 Monitoring and Reporting System (M&R)

Cavan County Council will continue to report on their energy performance and emission targets annually to the SEAI.

5.4.3 Sectoral Performance

Cavan County Council will report annually on their performance on climate action by way of KPIs (as outlined in Section 5.4) to inform the performance of the local government sector on climate action, as part of the local government DECA 2030 Strategy.

5.4.4 National Local Authority Climate Action Plan

Cavan County Council will in accordance with part 3(w) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter, report quarterly/annually to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) on progress on climate action at local level as part of the delivery of the national climate objective. Progress on all actions will be reported via a reporting tool developed by CARO.

5.4.5 Sustainable Development Goals

The National Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from 2018-2020 acknowledged the vital role of local government in translating national policies into practical actions to concretise SDG objectives at the individual and community levels.

Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for SDGs from 2022-2024 builds upon this role, focusing on showcasing existing initiatives, capacity building, embedding SDGs in governance, incorporating them into local planning, and fostering community engagement.

Additionally, local authorities are recognised as one of Agenda 2030's nine 'Major Groups,' emphasising their importance in sustainable development, particularly in urban contexts. Our Council is actively advancing SDGs by incorporating them into Corporate and County Development Plans, forming partnerships, providing training, creating mapping tools for SDG-related actions, providing training, and hosting informative events in collaboration with external groups, including universities, PPNs, Tidy Towns, and Creative Ireland. Each action in this Plan for the County or Decarbonisation Zone aligns with relevant SDG goals and targets.

5.4.6 Collaboration

As noted in this Plan, the sources of greenhouse gas emissions under the direct control of the Council equate to 2,305tCO₂ of the overall emissions for the county. While the Council will take the actions required to reduce these emissions, there is a clear need for collaborative community action from every citizen and organisation within the County to ensure that the Plan actions are delivered to help achieve national targets. The Council will support all citizens in transitioning Cavan into a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

5.4.7 Oversight

While the Council will execute and oversee the Plan's implementation, various parties will play a role in monitoring it through existing mechanisms, including:

- SEAI, which will continue to request regular updates on energy and emissions data from the Council during Plan implementation.
- Similarly, the CARO will request annual data and information from the Council to contribute to the national emissions inventory.
- DECC will maintain oversight of the Plan's implementation and may issue guidelines that the Council must adhere to.

Glossary of Terms

%	Percentage
OC	Degrees Celsius
BEI	Baseline Emissions Inventory
BER	Building Energy Rating
C&E	Community & Enterprise
CARO	Climate Action Regional Office
CCAC	Climate Change Advisory Council
CCMA	County and City Management Association
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
DoECLG	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DZ	Decarbonisation Zone
EM's	Elected Members
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EV's	Electric Vehicles
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
Ft	Feet (measurement)
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GHG	Green House Gas
GPP	Green Public Procurement
HR	Human Recourses
HSE	Health Service Executive
ICT	Information & Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
Km/hr	Kilometres per hour
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LA	Local Authority
LA-CAP	Local Authority Climate Action Plan
LEADER	Leading Education and Development in Evolving Regions
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry
M&R	Monitoring & Reporting
MD	Municipal District
NOAC	National Oversight and Auditing Committee
OPW	Office of Public Works
PLEEP	Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project
PPN	Public Participation Network
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

SEA/AA	Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SG	Strategic Goal
SMT	Senior Management Team
Solar PV	Solar Photo Voltaic
SPA	Special Protection Area
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage
tCO2	Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide
tCO2-eq	Million Tonnes Carbon Dioxide

END OF REPORT

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

October 2023



**CAVAN COUNTY
COUNCIL DRAFT
LOCAL AUTHORITY
CLIMATE ACTION**