



CLIMATE CHANGE

– GLOBAL ISSUE, LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Your council is taking climate action

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. No country has been immune to its impact and, for Ireland, that impact has often been devastating, from severe flooding to life-threatening storms. When climate change brings such emergencies, local authorities respond. With extreme weather events taking place more frequently than ever, councils are focussing more resources on ways to reduce knock-on effects on homes, businesses and lives. From building flood defences to co-ordinating first responses, councils are on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

We are poised to respond when extreme weather events occur but, in addition, we are taking pivotal action now to tackle climate change: both to mitigate against it and to adapt to its impact. Environmental sustainability has always been a priority for local authorities, both in our strategic planning and day-to-day actions. Alongside this, councils have been taking specific actions to respond to and reduce climate change. These actions will have positive and far-reaching impacts not just in relation to climate change, but for all of society in improving air quality, and creating better transport options and warmer, more economical homes.

Positioned to lead

Each local authority has developed and is implementing a Climate Adaptation Strategy. Councils were supported enormously in the development of these strategies by the four Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs). The establishment of the CAROs in 2018 was a very significant action by the local authority sector to assist in its response to the climate challenge. The CAROs are an invaluable asset, supporting capacity within the sector and acting as a catalyst for wider change.

There is scope for local authorities to deliver much wider change in years to come. Indeed, the local government sector has a critical role to play under the Government's Climate Action Plan to Tackle Climate Breakdown, which sets ambitious and binding targets for all public sector bodies by 2030 and identifies local authorities as key enablers of change.

Local authorities are uniquely positioned to lead when it comes to climate action. We are close to our communities, and our 1,000-

plus services put us in constant contact with the public. By taking affirmative action, we can have a positive influence over our localities.

Research quantifies central role

In order to quantify the work being done by councils and to share good practice across the public sector, research was conducted between January and July 2019 into the climate actions in place or planned by local authorities at that point in time.

Key findings from the research inform this publication and demonstrate the specific and extensive measures councils have undertaken across infrastructure, water resources, energy efficiency, flood risk management, nature-based solutions and public engagement. These actions represent just a snapshot in time of local authority achievements with respect to climate action, showing us how far we've come, but also what more we need to do.

Our central role in the Government's Climate Action Plan and the subsequent Local Authorities Climate Action Charter has cemented the position of councils as leading lasting change for the country. Councils are thinking ambitiously. We've positioned the sector to build expertise and are now ready to work with all sectors to provide the leadership necessary to bring about real and meaningful change.

Paddy Mahon

Chairperson, Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Planning Committee, County and City Management Association (CCMA)

  **4**  
CLIMATE ACTION
REGIONAL
OFFICES **(CAROs)**

14,000
BICYCLE PARKING
SPACES PROVIDED

20  
PILOTING
NEAR ZERO
ENERGY BUILDING
AUTHORITIES **SOCIAL HOUSING**

31   
CLIMATE ADAPTATION
STRATEGIES

15 **LOCAL**
AUTHORITIES **HAVE**

29

LOCAL AUTHORITIES
HAVE FUNDED
RENEWABLE OR
ENERGY
EFFICIENCY
PROJECTS



ELECTRIC OR
HYBRID
VEHICLES    **IN THEIR**
FLEET

2,400 **ALLOTMENTS**

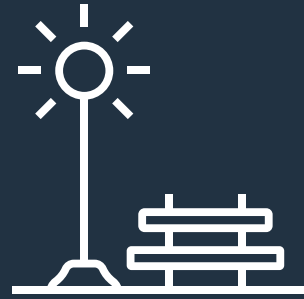
AND



97

COMMUNITY
GARDENS
FOR PUBLIC
USE

280,000
PUBLIC LIGHTS
TO BE UPGRADED



TO
ENERGY-EFFICIENT
LEDS

AS PART OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC LIGHTING PROJECT

884 TIDY
TOWNS
GROUPS



AND

NEIGHBOURHOODS

SUPPORTED

2017-2018

27 LOCAL
AUTHORITIES

HELD CLIMATE
TRAINING OR
AWARENESS
INITIATIVES



2011-2017

€120M

INVESTED BY
COUNCILS **IN**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

SAVING 61,000 TONNES OF CO₂, EQUIVALENT TO THE
EMISSIONS OF 11,000 HOMES ANNUALLY

The climate challenge

Storms, floods, even hurricanes – extreme weather events are becoming increasingly common in Ireland and worldwide as the effects of climate change take their toll. Since the late 19th century, average global temperatures have increased by approximately 1°C, with global warming likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if temperatures continue to increase at current rates. With the effects of climate change already evident, more profound impacts are expected for Ireland in the coming years, including:

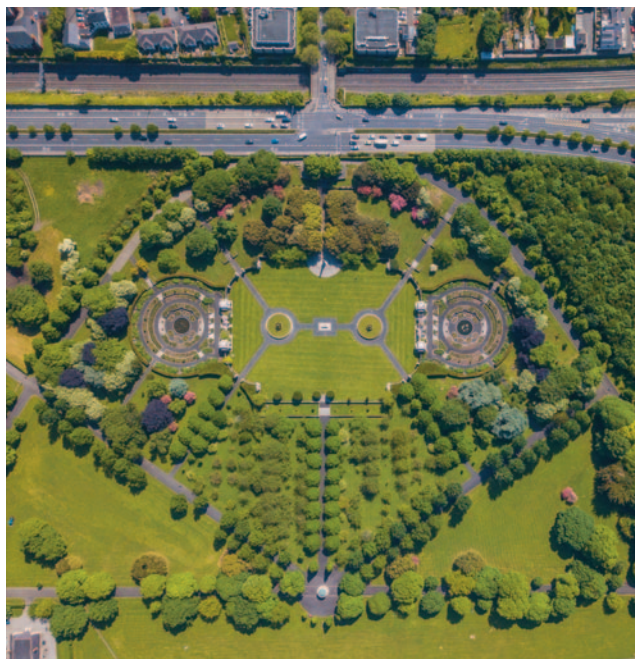
- more intense storms and rainfall events;
- increased likelihood and magnitude of river and coastal flooding;
- sea level rise;
- a reduction in the number of frost days and shortening of the frost season length;
- an increase in annual rainfall in northern and western regions, with decreases or small increases in the south and east;
- water shortages in summer in the east of the country;
- adverse impacts on water quality; and,
- changes in distribution of plant and animal species.

Since the late 19th century, average global temperatures have increased by approximately 1°C, with global warming likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if temperatures continue to increase at current rates.

To adequately respond to the climate crisis, a three-pronged approach is required, and local authorities are centrally involved in each:

- **MITIGATION:** We need to limit the emission of the greenhouse gases that cause climate change and support activities that remove these gases from the atmosphere.
- **ADAPTATION:** We're already experiencing the effects of climate change, and these impacts are set to last for centuries. As a country we need to respond to these impacts through initiating adaptation plans, as outlined in the National Adaptation Framework.
- **EMERGENCY RESPONSE:** Extreme weather events are set to continue – we need to be ready for them. As well as co-ordinating emergency responses, local authorities have begun investing more in flood defences in recent years to help offset the impacts of these events.

City and county councils are uniquely positioned to take the lead on addressing the climate crisis and motivating communities to support that effort. The following pages outline the steps local authorities have already taken to address the climate challenge and how they plan to lead lasting and transformative climate action in future years.





The local authority response

Given the critical role local authorities play in addressing climate change and its impacts, research was undertaken to assist the local government sector in quantifying the wide range of climate actions to date under the headings of Mitigation, Emergency Response, and Adaptation. The research was conducted by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) in 2019 on behalf of the County and City Management Association (CCMA) Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Planning Committee, and with the support of the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs). It also draws on earlier research conducted on behalf of the CCMA Environment Committee by the Three Counties Energy Agency (3CEA) in May/June 2018. The results demonstrate the actions local authorities have taken in recent years to lead by example where climate change is concerned. These results represent a snapshot in time, but local authorities continue to advance a range of additional measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The full report, 'A Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland' is available at www.lgma.ie. It includes 44 case studies detailing specific projects and programmes being rolled out by local authorities across the country.

Establishment of Climate Action Regional Offices

One of the most significant actions by the local authority sector to respond to climate change was the establishment of four Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) in 2018.

These offices are a shared service for the sector, operated by a lead local authority in each of the regions, and grouped according to shared climate change risks. They are crucial to driving and co-ordinating climate action at regional and local level, and enabling co-ordinated engagement across local and central government, building on the experience and expertise that exists across the sector, and driving practical policy and behavioural change.

Local authorities continue to advance a range of measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Strategy

All 31 local authorities have prepared Climate Adaptation Strategies committing to specific adaptation targets between 2019 and 2024. As councils implement their climate adaptation strategies, continuous comprehensive planning will enable them to assess and co-ordinate responses to extreme weather events and climate variability in a systematic, evidence-informed and consistent manner.



Energy efficiency

The public sector is required to make 33% energy savings by 2020, and to cut energy use in half by 2030, relative to 2009.

- Fifteen local authorities are on course to surpass their 2020 energy efficiency targets.
- Twenty-nine local authorities funded renewable energy or energy efficiency projects in the years 2014-2018.
- Twenty local authorities had piloted or were in the process of piloting nearly zero energy buildings (NZEBs) in their social housing.
- Across 20 local authorities surveyed in research carried out by the 3 Counties Energy Agency (3CEA), over €120 million was invested by local authorities in energy efficiency projects between 2011 and 2017. This resulted in 185GWh of energy savings, preventing 61,000 tonnes of CO₂ – the same as the emissions of 11,000 Irish homes annually.
- All local authorities have mandated the use of LED lighting in new public lighting installations, and 30 local authorities have converted some public lighting to LED energy-efficient bulbs.
- Twenty-four local authorities are working on a co-ordinated basis to upgrade public lighting stock through the National Public Lighting Upgrade Project. This project will upgrade approximately 280,000 public lights nationally. Once completed, this retrofit project will avoid 31,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year.
- Thirty local authorities have established or are working to establish energy management teams to monitor and improve the council's use of energy.
- Twenty-six councils have developed or are in the process of developing an energy masterplan showing building energy ratings, energy use and renewable energy technologies in all council-owned buildings.



Energy efficiency in action

Mayo County Council led the construction of a new public pool and leisure facility in Castlebar that received an 'A' rating for energy efficiency. A combined heat and power (CHP) unit is used to heat the building, with the by-product of electrical generation heating the complex's swimming pools.

The designation of a new Strategic Development Zone at Clonburris spurred South Dublin City Council to draft an energy masterplan for the area in 2017. As a result it is anticipated that by 2020 all new buildings in Clonburris will be required to be built to the NZEB standard.

200kW of solar PV panels have been installed on nine Tipperary County Council buildings, offsetting 70 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year.

As part of the regeneration of Cranmore, a local authority housing estate in Sligo town, Sligo County Council has focused on building and environmental energy upgrades to address dereliction and reduce fuel poverty by providing access to cleaner, cheaper fuel options.

More energy efficiency case studies are outlined in the Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland report available at www.lgma.ie.

Transport

Transport accounts for 20% of Ireland’s greenhouse gas emissions and local authorities have a key role to play in supporting sustainable transport.

- Fifteen local authorities use electric or hybrid vehicles as part of their fleet for day-to-day operations.
- Local authorities are leading the way on EV charging; more than 260 EV charging points are available on local authority property for public use across 29 local authorities. With Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment funding, local authorities will install 1,000 new EV charging points across the country over the next five years.
- Twenty-six local authorities have a cycling/walking strategy or are in the process of developing one.
- Bike parking for 14,000 bikes is currently provided by local authorities in public spaces.
- Local authority cycling infrastructure continues to expand, with more than 1,500km of segregated cycle lanes in place across local authorities at the end of 2018, and a further 1,600km of integrated cycle lanes.
- Twenty-seven local authorities had developed or were involved in a range of other transport initiatives, such as ‘Car Free Days’, age-friendly parking and transport workshops.



dublinbikes station.

Transport measures in action

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council’s fleet renewal programme has seen a commitment to invest in electric vehicles and the installation of charging points at council-owned buildings and parks.

A new town strategy by Laois County Council envisages Portlaoise as a low carbon town. This will be achieved through reducing the impacts of car use on the public realm, improving overall air and environmental quality, encouraging more walking and cycling, and providing a better quality environment for leisure and social use.

Dublin City Council’s bike sharing scheme ‘dublinbikes’ has facilitated more than 27 million bicycle journeys since 2009, with 67,000 annual subscribers. Bikes now represent 14% of all city centre traffic.

Leitrim County Council’s Smarter Travel Programme in Carrick-on-Shannon created a network of cycle and walking paths that encourage public use, cutting the public’s dependency on private car transport.

To offset the emissions from its air travel, Dublin City Council has initiated a carbon credits project, contributing to sustainability projects with each flight.

More transport case studies are outlined in the Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland report available at www.lgma.ie.

Flood risk management

An increase in rainfall events in recent years has meant that local authorities, through their development plans, have had to address flood-resilient planning and consider a range of adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Local authorities take the lead in implementing flood defence works in their areas. Between 2014 and 2018:

- fourteen local authorities collaborated with the Office of Public Works on 21 major flood defence projects;
 - twenty-five local authorities delivered 228 schemes under the OPW's Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Schemes; and,
 - approximately €173.5 million was invested in major flood defences and Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Schemes by the OPW and local authorities; of this investment, local authorities contributed approximately €12.4 million towards these flood defences.
- By the end of 2018, 18 local authorities had a dedicated person to review flood risk assessments submitted as part of planning regulations.
 - All local authorities had or were in the process of developing a strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) for their County/City Development Plan, while 30 had or were in the process of undertaking SFRA's for their local area plans.
 - Of ten local authorities that have a Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) in their area, eight stated that, by the end of 2018, the SFRA of their SDZs was up to date or in the process of being updated.
 - Twenty-eight local authorities had developed a policy within their County/City Development Plans to include sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in new/existing developments. Two more are in the process of doing so.
 - Six councils have converted local authority land to wetlands for flood control and water quality improvement, while three more are in the process of doing so.
 - Thirteen local authorities have developed a surface water management plan to manage flood risks. Eleven more authorities are currently developing a plan.



Flood risk management in action

Dublin City Council has initiated a nature-based flood relief scheme in Crumlin Village to manage surface water run-off sustainably, including localised porous surfaces, filter drains and tree pits.

Offaly County Council constructed a clay embankment on the Partavolla Housing Estate, which was built partially on a flood plain.

Westmeath County Council established the Athlone Flood Alleviation Scheme to provide flood defences in the town after recent heavy floods.

Cork County Council has installed an erosion control armour system to address coastal erosion and flooding at Garrettstown Beach.

Green roofs are a method of capturing rainfall through the creation of vegetated areas on roofs that can retain rainwater, particularly during extreme weather events that can lead to flooding. **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council** is the first local authority with a mandatory policy on green roofs embedded within its County Development Plan.

More flood management case studies are outlined in the Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland report available at www.lgma.ie.

Emergency response to flooding

Between 2014 and 2018, 21 local authorities activated flood emergency response plans on 82 occasions.

■ In responding to weather emergencies, councils spent a combined total of €101 million between 2014 and 2018 on areas such as clean-up, road repair and disaster recovery.



Road damage following flooding in Inishowen, Co. Donegal, 2017.



Construction of rock armour wall, Kilcredaun, Co. Clare.

Extreme weather response in action

After severe rainfall and flooding in August 2017, Donegal County Council led the immediate response to the impact, with 106 incidents responded to by the fire service. With an initial priority of saving lives, several council divisions were called upon to install road signage, restore water supplies, find temporary accommodation for displaced families, and provide up-to-date information on activities through its communications office.

Coastal flooding around the Loop Head Peninsula in early 2014 led Clare County Council to establish a temporary roadway to ensure that properties were not left isolated.

To quantify the cost of storm damage and provide a template for the provision of resources for the next extreme weather event, Cavan County Council completed a comprehensive assessment of the interdepartmental resources required to deal with such events.

More extreme weather response case studies are outlined in the Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland report available at www.lgma.ie.



Waste management

Local authorities have responsibility for driving and managing waste policy in their areas, and take a leadership role in how their own waste is managed and monitored.

- Twenty-eight local authorities have implemented or are in the process of implementing an internal waste management system.
- Nineteen local authorities monitor their waste generation in council-operated buildings.
- Recycling rates across individual local authorities reached in excess of 85% during 2017/2018.
- Collectively, local authorities operate 900 bring centres/civic amenity sites.
- Local authorities delivered more than 600 initiatives in 2017 and 2018 aimed at discouraging dumping or littering.

Waste management in action

Changes in waste collection, misinformation and poor practices around recycling contribute significantly to Ireland's waste problem. A 'one stop shop' was required for consistent information and messaging on the subject. MyWaste.ie was devised to act as a trusted source of information for the public. Containing Irish-based content on waste management, resource use, recycling and the circular economy, as well as regularly updated blog posts, maps, videos and news, the website provides the public with the knowledge required for a sustainable future.

More waste management case studies are outlined in the Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland report available at www.lgma.ie.

Water conservation

The delivery of water to end users, including pumping it to businesses and homes, and waste water disposal, requires significant use of electricity resources. Conserving water can therefore help to mitigate climate change.

- Fourteen local authorities reported that they measured water use in local authority buildings. A further five local authorities were in the process of doing so.
- Eight local authorities reported that water conservation measures were also implemented in their social housing.

- Fifteen local authorities reported that they rolled out water conservation initiatives to the public.
- Local authorities intervened on more than 300 occasions between 2014 and 2018 to provide drinking water supplies to residents following extreme weather events because of poor water quality or damaged water infrastructure.

Nature-based solutions

Local authorities have a key role to play in maintaining the integrity of ecosystems and protecting biodiversity, which is a strong line of defence against the direct impacts of climate change.

- In total, more than 37,600 trees were planted in 2017 and more than 36,400 trees were planted in 2018 by local authorities.
- Twelve local authorities have developed or are developing a tree management policy. Of these, six have also developed or are developing an urban woodland strategy.
- Nineteen local authorities have developed or are developing a green infrastructure strategy/guidelines to provide green space that can preserve natural ecosystems.
- Eleven local authorities reported having a specific public open space and parks strategy.
- Alternative weed control methods to herbicides are currently being trialled across 18 local authorities.
- Eight local authorities have incorporated, and four are in the process of incorporating, green roofs in council buildings as part of new buildings or building upgrades.
- By the end of 2018, 29 local authorities had developed or were developing Biodiversity Action Plans.
- Through their Biodiversity Action Plans, 19 local authorities have been proactive with respect to distinct invasive alien species plans.
- Six local authorities have developed an invasive alien species plan, with specific actions related to climate change included in two local authorities' invasive alien species plan.
- A further 13 local authorities are in the process of developing an invasive alien species plan, with specific actions related to climate change included in nine local authorities' invasive alien species plans once finalised.
- Twenty-eight local authorities managed or were engaged in environmental awards or designations, such as An Taisce Green and Blue Flag programmes, Natural Heritage Areas, Tidy Towns and the Foróige Youth Citizenship Award.

Nature-based solutions in action

To preserve local biodiversity, Longford County Council has funded planting projects and educational talks aimed at encouraging the preservation of local wildlife habitats. New habitats have been created to encourage biodiversity, while reducing roadside verge cutting to aid pollination.

Galway County Council has introduced an invasive species strategy, identifying areas for the treatment of invasive species that threaten important habitats. An information campaign is educating the public on the invasive species in the area, while a dedicated phone line allows the public to report invasive species sites for investigation.

Limerick City and County Council have undertaken a three-year programme to eradicate giant hogweed from local river catchments, done mostly through cutting seeds from the plants before they disperse, and digging up the tap roots, rather than the conventional approach of using herbicides.

Fingal County Council has worked to preserve and protect the diverse wildlife found on the grounds of Malahide Castle and its surrounds. It includes: 10 hectares of Talbot Botanic Gardens; the Buddlia Garden, a habitat for local butterfly species; and, the Meadow, which encompasses 37 acres for wildlife habitats.

South Dublin County Council has developed many of its parks into meadowlands and cut back on mowing activities to encourage plants and wildlife to flourish.

Cork City Council has developed a masterplan for the reuse of the Kinsale Road landfill site, developing it into a public park, which would house running, walking and cycling paths, pitches, and have a focus on encouraging biodiversity through accommodating natural habitats.

More nature-based solution case studies are outlined in the Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland report available at www.lgma.ie.

Public engagement

Local authorities want to lead on climate change, and engaging with the public around the issue and response is an important part of that.

- Twenty-two local authorities reported that they held climate action training or events for local authority employees during 2017 or 2018.
- Twenty-three local authorities reported that they held climate action training or events for communities during 2017 or 2018.
- Ten local authorities reported that they held climate action training or events for social housing residents.
- Similarly, in the context of waste management, between 2017 and 2018:
 - twenty-three local authorities reported that they held waste management training or events for local authority employees;
 - twenty-nine local authorities reported that they held waste management training or events for communities; and,
 - thirteen local authorities reported that they held waste management training or events for social housing residents.
- Twenty-two local authorities provide allotments and/or community gardens for communities to grow vegetables, fruits, trees and other plants.
- Twenty local authorities reported that they provided over 2,400 allotments for public use in 2018.
- Eighteen local authorities reported that they provided 97 community gardens for public use in 2018.
- Twenty local authorities ran community climate action programmes in 2018, which promote communities' commitments to changing behaviour to more climate-friendly practices.
- Twenty-seven local authorities said they were supporting, or in the process of supporting, green business initiatives, which aim to help enterprises to save money and reduce their environmental impact.
- All local authorities supported a combined 884 towns and neighbourhoods in the 2018 Tidy Towns programme, many of which undertook specific climate actions such as increasing biodiversity, tree planting and improving waste management practices.



Public engagement in action

In association with local businesses and public sector bodies, **Kildare County Council** organised a three-day summer 'Climate Camp' at the Irish National Stud. The camp focussed on topics such as climate change, weather and biodiversity, and featured interactive games around the Sustainable Development Goals and positive climate actions that individuals can take. The Council was also instrumental in holding climate change workshops for communities. Funded by the County Kildare LEADER Partnership, "Communities 4 Climate Action" provided training for the public to build the awareness and capacity of individuals in terms of what future climate action they can take.

Meath County Council held a Sustainable Energy Communities launch to showcase its energy masterplan. The afternoon event, which promoted the environmental efforts of local businesses and new eco-innovations, drove public engagement and delivery of the climate action and Sustainable Energy Communities message.

More public engagement case studies are outlined in the Profile of Local Government Climate Actions in Ireland report available at www.lgma.ie.



Building to the future

Local authorities stand ready to lead on climate action and have huge ambition for what the local government sector can achieve. As evidenced in the last section, local authorities have taken considerable action to address the climate challenge. They anticipated and planned for the enhanced role now falling to them, and have positioned the sector over the last number of years to build on the expertise and competencies they have to work with all sectors of the community and provide the local leadership necessary to bring about real and meaningful change. Councils are thinking ambitiously and creatively about what they can do to have real impact.

Local authorities stand ready to lead on climate action and have huge ambition for what the local government sector can achieve.

National Climate Action Plan

In 2019 the Government of Ireland published its Climate Action Plan. The plan lays out 183 actions for all areas of the public sector to commit to, in order to meet the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In the plan, local authorities are identified as lead or key stakeholders in 30 of its actions. In practice, local authorities will undoubtedly play an even greater role in influencing and enacting climate action, given their unique role within every Irish community.

Among the wide-ranging actions required of local authorities under the Government Climate Action Plan are to:

- undertake deep retrofits of local authority buildings and social housing stock;
- develop and implement cycle network plans for all major cities and implement the National Cycle Policy Framework to facilitate cycling and increase cycling infrastructure;

- develop a sustainable transport plan for all cities with a population exceeding 75,000;
- climate proof development plans and deliver National Planning Framework objectives for compact growth;
- deliver technical and behavioural change training to local authority staff;
- support the development of one stop shops for residential and commercial energy efficiency;
- develop an online checklist for companies to measure their sustainability;
- develop a climate action toolkit and audit for local authority development planning to drive the adoption of stronger climate action policies in relation to the patterns and forms of future developments;
- manage low-emission zones including through pricing policies and restricted access;
- extend flagship low-carbon projects to other towns and villages;
- roll out electric vehicle charging network and deploy electric vehicles within council fleets;
- develop plans for ‘decarbonising zones’;
- develop good practice models on climate change adaptation and mitigation at community level, including the design of a climate action module for inclusion at national level for local community development committees (LCDCs) and public participation networks (PPNs); and,
- implement a new national waste prevention programme and regional waste management plans.

Climate Action Charter

A new Local Authority Climate Action Charter has been developed and signed by all local authorities and commits signatories to a number of objectives to address the climate challenge, and advocate for climate action and behavioural change among citizens.

The Charter acknowledges the need to take collective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change, and commits local authorities to being advocates for climate action in policy and practices.

Under the Charter, local authorities will measure the carbon



impact of activities and implement measures to reduce carbon emissions in line with national objectives including a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

Local authorities will put in place a process for carbon proofing major decisions, programmes and projects on a systematic basis, including investments in transport and energy infrastructure, moving over time to a near zero carbon investment strategy.

They will ask suppliers as part of the procurement process to provide information on their carbon footprint and sustainability practices, and implement green public procurement strategy and procedures across all business areas. Local authority employees will be supported to undertake changes in their lifestyles both at work and at home to reduce carbon impact, and employee-led groups will be encouraged to identify and implement ideas for improvement.

Councils will exercise planning and regulatory roles to help improve climate outcomes in the wider community and beyond

The Charter acknowledges the need to take collective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change, and commits local authorities to being advocates for climate action in policy and practices.

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the public sector, by developing and implementing robust evidenced-based policy and standards on climate action, through appropriate and relevant adaptation and mitigation measures.

They will support enterprise through local enterprise office (LEO)/LCDC offices to exploit opportunities that will arise from meeting the challenges of climate change.

Councils will also develop links with young citizens to give voice to their understanding and concerns on climate change, and to enhance their awareness and the actions that they can take.

The actions outlined in this publication are not exhaustive of the work local authorities will be undertaking as part of efforts to build a sustainable, zero-emissions future for Ireland and its citizens. Find out more at www.lgma.ie.

