



The Climate Action Regional Offices are an initiative of Local Government, funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, as a shared service for Local Authorities.

November 2024

Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Stakeholder Report



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1. Introduction

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 requires each Irish local authority to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) for its administrative area. Each Local Authority went through a plan preparation process during 2023 and adopted their LACAP by the end of Quarter 1, 2024. The [31 Local Authority Climate Action Plans](#) have statutory remit for a five-year duration. The LACAPs aim to deliver ambitious global and national climate targets and implement national climate policy at a community level through local authority regulatory and strategic functions and relationships.

Additionally, action 165 of the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019, requires Local Authorities to identify and develop plans for a Decarbonising Zone where a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) is defined as a "spatial area identified by the local authority, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets". Subsequently, Action 80 of the Climate Action Plan 2021 required that the DZ development be integrated with the development of the LACAP.

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs), which were established to assist and coordinate the Local Authority response to climate change, have carried out an [analysis of the 31 Local Authority Climate Action Plans](#) that have been adopted by Irish Local authorities in 2024.

One of the outcomes of this analysis is the production of high-level reports for the principal stakeholders that have been identified by Local Authorities as being integral to the delivery of LACAPs and DZ actions. The aim of these [stakeholder reports](#) is to guide each stakeholder towards the local authorities and actions that are most relevant to them, to facilitate more informed stakeholder engagement and to inform stakeholders in the preparation of their own plans.

This stakeholder report has been prepared for the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**.

*Please note that this is a high-level assessment performed by the CAROs to inform the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** of actions where it has been cited by Local Authorities as a stakeholder. If further information is required on any aspect of the report, please contact CARO@CorkCoCo.ie.*

2. LACAP analysis

The methodology deployed for the LACAP analysis centred around the development of a database. The database was populated by the individual actions that were adopted by all 31 local authorities.

A CARO team assessed and categorised each individual action according to its area of focus, type (mitigation or adaptation), whether the action required or involved research, whether the action involved work across local authority boundaries, what sectors the action related to and what stakeholders had been identified by the Local Authority as being involved in delivery of the action.

Actions were further categorised by the project team using a three-tier classification process. Each action was initially classified into one of 11 Tier 1 categories and then further categorised into Tier 2 and Tier 3 category. The Tier 1 categories are:

- Local Authority Organisation

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- Local Authority Owned or Managed Buildings – this includes administrative buildings, social housing and other community buildings (e.g. libraries, swimming pools, etc)
- Local Authority Owned or Managed Infrastructure – this refers to other assets such as roads, public lighting, land, parks, heritage assets, communication networks, EV charging infrastructure, draining systems
- Local Authority Finance or Budgets
- Planning
- Community
- Active and Sustainable Travel
- Climate Impact Management
- Waste and Circular Economy
- Natural Assets and LULUCF
- Tourism

The project working group developed and worked to set criteria to ensure consistency in approach to action categorisation. Regular review meetings were held to maintain high levels of consistency in the data.

3. LACAP overview

The Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs) reinforce the commitment by the local government sector to lead on climate action at local and national levels. Each LACAP outlines the actions that the individual local authority will be taking to meet its responsibility regarding reduction of greenhouse gas emissions across its own assets and infrastructure as well as the actions that the local authority will take to influence, enable, and facilitate others to meet their own targets.

The Decarbonising Zone section of the Local Authority Climate Action Plans identifies the climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity actions to be taken by the Local Authority in the Decarbonising Zone (DZ) to test, pilot and demonstrate decarbonising at local and community level.

Analysis of the 31 LACAPs including Decarbonising Zones reveals the following:

- In total, **3,935** actions have been adopted across all 31 LACAPs, including
 - **3282** actions that relate to the whole local authority administrative area and are referred to as LACAP actions.
 - **653** actions that relate specifically to Decarbonizing Zones (DZs) and are referred to as DZ actions.
- 26 out of the 31 LACAPs identify the stakeholders that will be involved in each individual action.

4. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Actions:

An analysis of all 3282 actions in 31 LACAPs has concluded that:

- **68** of all 3282 actions relate to the EPA.

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- these are contained in **21** of the 31 LACAPs (taking note that 5 of the 31 LACAPs did not identify the stakeholders that will be involved in their actions).

Furthermore, an analysis of all 653 DZ actions has concluded that:

- **9** of the total DZ actions relate to the EPA.
- These are contained in **7** of the DZ plans (taking note that 8 local authorities did not list individual actions for their DZs and that 6 of the Local authorities that did identify DZ actions did not identify the stakeholders that will be involved in their actions).

Figure 1 shows the distribution of LACAP and DZ actions that cite the EPA as a stakeholder across local authorities.

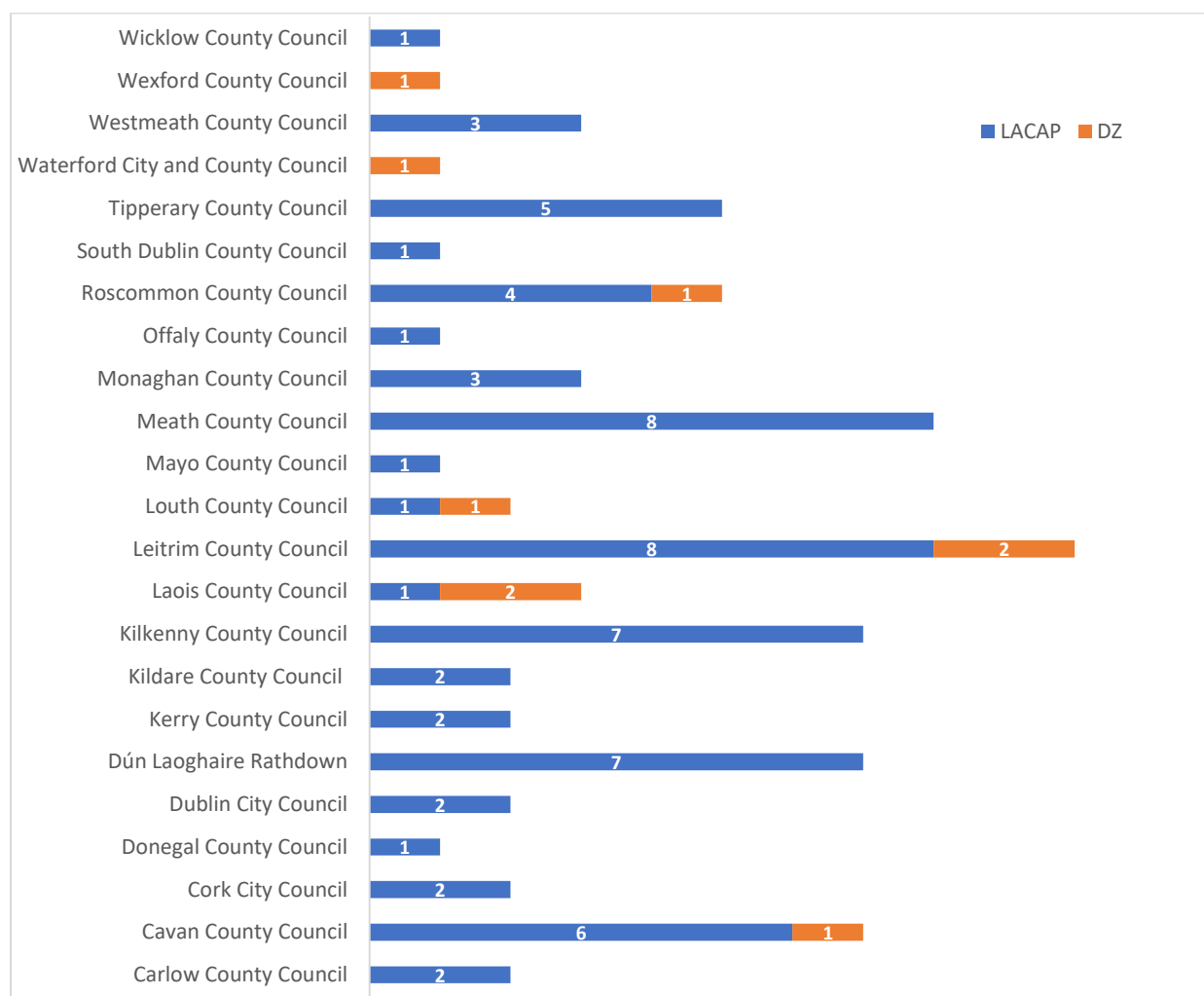


Figure 1: Breakdown of EPA stakeholder actions according to Local Authority LACAP and DZ

4.1. Adaptation/Mitigation

All local authorities classified their LACAP and DZ actions according to whether they related to mitigation, adaptation, or a combination of both. Mitigation actions include those that reduce the causes of climate change and those that serve to maintain and enhance carbon sinks while adaptation actions include those that increase resilience to current climate and weather conditions and those that involve planning for future climate impacts. Combined actions are those that

address climate mitigation and adaptation. Figure 2 shows the breakdown of the LACAP actions that cite the EPA as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 28% of the total number of LACAP actions that cite the EPA as a stakeholder address both mitigation and adaptation while 53% are specifically mitigation actions and 19% specifically relate to adaptation.

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of DZ actions that cite the EPA as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 44% of the total number of DZ actions that cite the EPA as a stakeholder address both mitigation and adaptation while 44% are specifically mitigation actions and 12% specifically relate to adaptation.

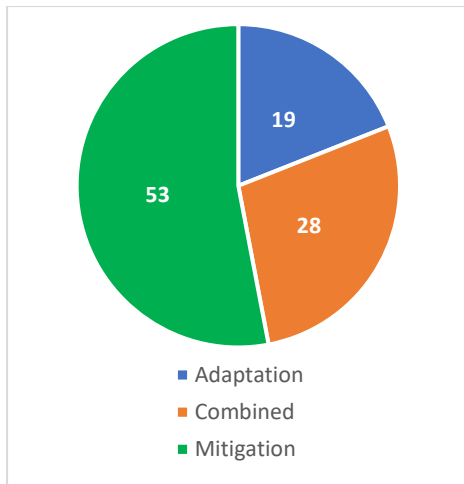


Figure 2: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of LACAP EPA stakeholder actions

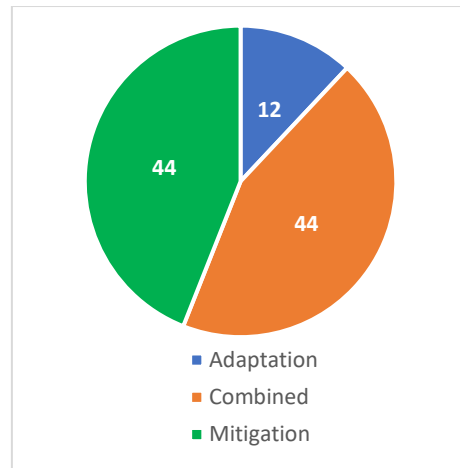


Figure 3: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of DZ EPA stakeholder actions

4.2. Classification of Actions

Each action underwent a three-tier classification process, with 11 possible categories in Tier one, being further broken down into Tier 2 and Tier 3 categories.

Figure 4 shows the breakdown of all LACAP and DZ actions that cite the EPA as a stakeholder according to Tier 1 Category with actions classified into 9 of the possible 11 categories.

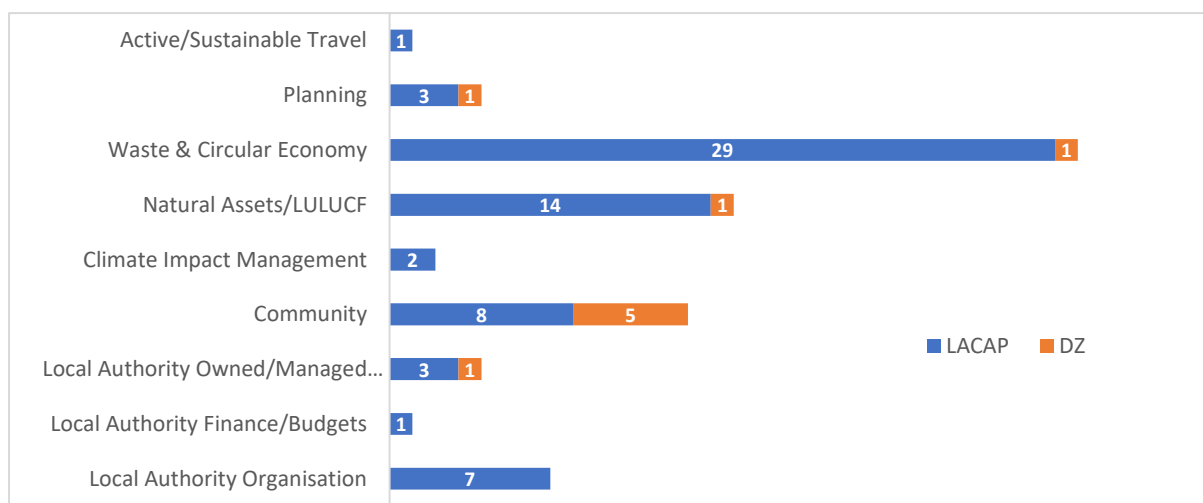


Figure 4: Tier 1 classification of LACAP and DZ EPA stakeholder actions

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It is apparent that a significant majority of all LACAP and DZ actions that cite the EPA as a stakeholder are associated with Waste and the Circular Economy, with smaller numbers associated with the themes of Natural assets, Land Use, Land-use Change, Forestry (LULUCF), Community and Local Authority Organisation. The types of actions that are listed under each of these categories are as follows:

Waste and the Circular Economy:

- Implement waste policy (e.g. National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy, National Hazardous Waste Plan, etc.)
- Enforcement of environmental legislation
- Expansion of waste infrastructure and collection services (e.g. repair and reuse cafes, circular economy hubs, civic amenity sites, segregated brown bin collections, solar bins, etc)
- Awareness campaigns to promote waste prevention and circular economy

Natural assets, Land Use, Land-use Change, Forestry (LULUCF):

- Bathing water quality and reporting
- Identification of at risk water bodies and habitats
- Enforcement of agricultural regulations in order to protect water quality
- Review Discharge to Water licences in relation to their capacity to address climate change risks.
- Engage with stakeholders in peatland and forestry management

Community:

- Education, awareness raising on issues such as climate impacts on biodiversity and water quality, waste management, air quality, etc.
- Implementation of the National Dialogue on Climate action
- Air Quality improvement

Local Authority Organisation:

- Monitoring and reporting of environmental parameters (e.g. air quality, water quality, biodiversity, etc)
- Participate in research
- Strategic partnerships to develop and fund innovations in operations, service delivery and infrastructure.

All 68 LACAP and 9 DZ actions that cite the EPA as a stakeholder are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: LACAP actions that cite the EPA as a Stakeholder

Local Authority	Action No	Action
Carlow County Council	SRM 1.1	Develop and implement an annual environmental awareness campaign incorporating the objectives of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy
Carlow County Council	SRM 1.3	Regulate and enforce the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) which focus on delivering positive environmental outcomes for air quality, water quality and waste management. This includes over 2,000 different environmental inspections in Carlow annually. Ensure sustainable transport modes are used to travel to and from inspection sites, where feasible.
Cavan County Council	C 17	Liaise and collaborate with the CARO and the EPA on the implementation of the National Dialogue on Climate Action.
Cavan County Council	S 1	Develop and implement an annual environmental awareness campaign incorporating the objectives of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.
Cavan County Council	S 2	Increase the number of solar bins across the County.
Cavan County Council	S 5	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.
Cavan County Council	S 6	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.
Cavan County Council	S 8	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
Cork City Council	1.13	Establish a Communications Working Group, with dedicated resources, informed by climate and behavioural science and with internal / external participants, to advise and build capacity for application in policy, planning, investment programmes, and public- awareness.
Cork City Council	5.7	Complete and publish the detailed Habitat and Risk Register Assessment, including mapping/GIS, of priority areas for the city and a risk register of all natural heritage assets at a habitat level.
Donegal County Council	GL 1.3	Implement a monitoring regime and revise as needed to tackle emerging climate action priorities in a transparent decision making process.
Dublin City Council	OS 15	Identify areas in need of infrastructure that supports re use, repair, repurpose, and free cycling.

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Dublin City Council	EP 3	Host events as part of European Mobility Week.
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	R 2	Facilitate, advocate, and enable the implementation of the Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	R 3	Guided by the National Hazardous Waste Plan 2021-2027 promote the appropriate management of hazardous household wastes
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	R 5	Implement the reuse/ repair policy of the Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	R 6	Continue to accept garden waste at Ballyogan Recycling Park, in accordance with environmental management and protection related conditions contained in the waste licence for this facility and develop a composting strategy for organic waste collected by/ generated by the Council
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	R 8	Collaborate with the Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Planning Office (EMRWMPO), The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other national bodies to promote waste prevention and circular economy related campaigns
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	R 20	Bathing Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	C 17	Provide education and raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and water quality
Kerry County Council	2.1.8	Participate in ongoing research/initiatives recording the environmental co-benefits of climate action in air quality; water quality and biodiversity
Kerry County Council	3.2.1	Regulate and inspect activities and operations in the water quality, waste management and air quality sectors
Kildare County Council	N14	Carry out a review of Section 4 Discharge to Water Licences to determine if they are fit for purpose to meet projected climate change related risks such as hydrological changes and water temperature increases
Kildare County Council	R14	To carry out 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. Implement any protective and remediation measures for waterbodies identified.
Kilkenny County Council	2.16	Explore the feasibility of using new low carbon technologies for road reconstruction on regional roads; and for reducing waste through re-use of materials
Kilkenny County Council	3.11	Assess the need for guidance/ planning policy regarding the impact of new development proposed for areas determined to have a water supply and quality constraint (i.e., from climate related drought, extreme rainfall events).
Kilkenny County Council	5.11	Monitor and report on air quality

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Kilkenny County Council	5.12	Adopt the Green Teams National Programme within Kilkenny County Council
Kilkenny County Council	5.14	Undertake an audit of the waste produced by the Council's operations and services. Updated Council waste management policy with a view to promoting waste prevention, minimisation and recycling.
Kilkenny County Council	5.15	Explore the potential to develop alternative sources of energy at the former landfill site at Dunmore. Consider planning and environmental constraints and requirements in relation to such a project at feasibility stage.
Kilkenny County Council	5.16	Explore the potential to repurpose, upcycle and/or to use waste collected at Civic Amenity Sites, and other appropriate locations, to generate new products and enterprises, having due regard to the need to comply with relevant provisions of the Waste Management Act
Laois County Council	77	Laois County Council will continue to enforce GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) regulations, ensuring water bodies resilience to climate changes are sustained
Leitrim County Council	CRT 18	Liaise and collaborate with the CARO and the EPA on the implementation of the National Dialogue on Climate Action.
Leitrim County Council	SR 1	Develop and implement an annual environmental awareness campaign incorporating the objectives of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.
Leitrim County Council	SR 2	Increase the number of solar bins across the County.
Leitrim County Council	SR 5	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.
Leitrim County Council	SR 6	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.
Leitrim County Council	SR 7	Increase recycling and recovery for bulky household items, hazardous waste, electrical waste and green waste.
Leitrim County Council	SR 8	Ensure that all Leitrim County Council waste collection contracts are aligned with the waste hierarchy and minimise disposal and recovery in favour of circular systems and the elimination of single use plastics.
Leitrim County Council	SR 9	Progress the authorisation and subsequent of remediation of historical landfill sites previously controlled by Leitrim County Council. Ensure such remediation projects are properly designed and planned and do not cause unintended negative environmental effects.
Louth County Council	NEGI 1	Support the full delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth 2021 – 2026

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Mayo County Council	9	Identify and collaborate with Government organisations to assist in developing risk assessments and climate adaptation measures for key natural, cultural, and infrastructural assets incorporating nature-based solutions, biodiversity, and water quality enhancement.
Meath County Council	NE 3	Develop options for the delivery of a National Implementation Strategy for Nature-Based Solutions and interim guidance to the management of rainwater and surface water run-off in urban areas.
Meath County Council	NE 9	Carry out an assessment of Section 4 Discharge to Water Licences.
Meath County Council	CRT 2	Expand Trim Air Quality Project to other Decarbonising Zones.
Meath County Council	CRT 3	Monitor implementation of flood risk management guidelines in planning applications, having regard to environmental sensitivities e.g., biodiversity, archaeology, amenity value.
Meath County Council	SR 3	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.
Meath County Council	SR 4	Engage with businesses and residents to support adoption of reused and recycled materials.
Meath County Council	SR 11	Implement improved management of construction and demolition (C&D) waste from LA activities.
Meath County Council	SR 13	Develop a waste management plan with particular attention to the circular economy principles. Promotion of the circular economy e.g., recycling facilities / repair hubs. and Bike repair days to be organised. On street waste segregation to be trialled.
Monaghan County Council	BE 10	Participate in study on Revitalisation through the Integration of Vacant Buildings into the Circular Economy TREBUChEt (EPA funded).
Monaghan County Council	BE 13	Liaise with the EPA regarding National Emissions inventory reporting to ensure alignment with future climate actions.
Monaghan County Council	SRM 9	Complete inspections on Domestic Wastewater treatment systems to increase water quality status, through consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency.
Offaly County Council	NE 4.2.5	Assess all new development for the implementation of natural water retention measures
Roscommon County Council	NEGI 3	Engage with stakeholders in peatland and forestry management to align with heritage policy and RCC emergency services fire prevention and response provisions. Prepare guidelines for stakeholder use as appropriate. Engage peatland and forestry stakeholders with initiatives and community projects, identify synergies with JTF programme and areas of “added value” for local communities; whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote Climate Action co-

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		benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
Roscommon County Council	NEGI 7	Establish and coordinate links with relevant state departments, semi-state bodies and advisory agencies in support of the development, application and funding of Climate Action innovations in operations, service delivery and infrastructural provision (including roads programme) at policy/programme development stage and through targeted education and training programmes in the areas of planning, H&S, roads, regeneration and environment, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure projects promote Climate Action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
Roscommon County Council	CRT 5	Support communities in the development of nature-based solutions in line with green infrastructure strategy and source protection guidance in place. RCC will collaborate with communities to strengthen local food security and promote equity and well-being through support for community gardens and allotments as appropriate.
Roscommon County Council	SRM 2	Establish links between community organisations at a local level to develop opportunities in the area of waste reduction, reuse and recycling, provide support as appropriate, to progress, develop and/or expand circular economic activities
South Dublin County Council	N 20	Increase data gathering on the effects of climate change on natural water quality in the county.
Tipperary County Council	21	To carry out a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events associated with climate change, and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.
Tipperary County Council	25	Implement an enhanced system of annual monitoring of severe weather events, including the associated costs of managing/responding to those events that generated a need for emergency response. Maintain a record of the costs associated with the management of and response to severe weather events.
Tipperary County Council	47	Having consideration to the outcome of a feasibility assessment (Action 21), the Council shall consider how new development in areas determined to have both a water supply and a water quality constraint (i.e. from climate related drought, extreme rain fall events) may impact on water quality.
Tipperary County Council	59	Carry out a review of Section 4 Discharge to Water Licences to determine if they are capable of meeting projected climate change related risks such as hydrological changes and water temperature increases.
Tipperary County Council	74	To support and inform a climate proofing programme for natural water resources, and to better manage flooding at the catchment level, the Council will identify a sub-catchment where water quality objectives are not being met, and where there is an established flood risk. A study will be commissioned for this sub-catchment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify the reasons why Water Framework Directive water quality objectives are not being met, ii. Set out baseline water quality standards to enable monitoring, iii. Identify solutions (incl nature based) to reducing flood risk at the catchment level, and, iv. Set out viable, positive and collaborative mechanisms at the community level for how they can be delivered.

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		v. The programme shall have due regard to the protection of biodiversity and European sites and avoidance of habitat fragmentation.
Westmeath County Council	3.2	WCC shall seek to continue to improve air quality throughout the county through various means including liaising with the EPA regarding control and enforcement of discharge licences.
Westmeath County Council	5.5	Carry out a review of discharge licenses to counter possible reduced assimilative capacity of water courses and amend/revoke as required.
Westmeath County Council	5.11	Regulate and enforce the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) which focus on delivering positive environmental outcomes for air quality, water quality and waste management.
Wicklow County Council	3 SRM	Implement a wider roll out of segregated brown bin collection systems and support the implementation of the National Waste Management Plan, whilst ensuring all supported initiatives accord with provision Waste Management Act and do not lead to adverse environmental impacts or nuisance.

Table 2: DZ actions that cite the EPA as a Stakeholder

Local Authority	Action no	Action
Cavan County Council	DZ-S8	Engage with local industrial sector regarding the impact on air quality from industrial emissions.
Laois County Council	3.8	Install Traffic and Air Quality Monitors to monitor environmental conditions.
Laois County Council	4.14	Support Reuse and Repair initiatives, minimising unnecessary waste and promoting resource conservation.
Leitrim County Council	DZT11	Utilise low-carbon pavement material within works on the DZ's road network.
Leitrim County Council	DZNGI2	Install air quality monitors at appropriate locations in the DZ and monitor over time.
Louth County Council	DZ 11	Enhance the biodiversity value of the green and blue spaces within the DZ through nature-based solutions to provide additional ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, amenity areas and clean water, having due regard for planning and development policy and environmental protection considerations during the Masterplanning and development process
Roscommon County Council	DZ 5	Prioritise nature based solutions in the execution of all development within the decarbonisation zone aligned with the National Implementation Strategy for Nature-Based Solutions for the management of rainwater and surface water run-off in urban areas, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality.
Waterford City & County Council	DZ 10.16	Air pollution monitoring programme at City Schools with education programme
Wexford County Council	DZ NEGI 2	Investigate the feasibility of implementing a pilot study into monitor real-time CO2 emissions within the DZ

**Oifig Réigiúnach um
Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide
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