



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

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) 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 **National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)**.

*Please note that this is a high-level assessment performed by the CAROs to inform the **National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)** 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. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Actions:

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

- **71** of all 3282 actions relate to the NPWS.

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- these are contained in **20** 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 NPWS.
- These are contained in **5** 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 NPWS as a stakeholder across local authorities.

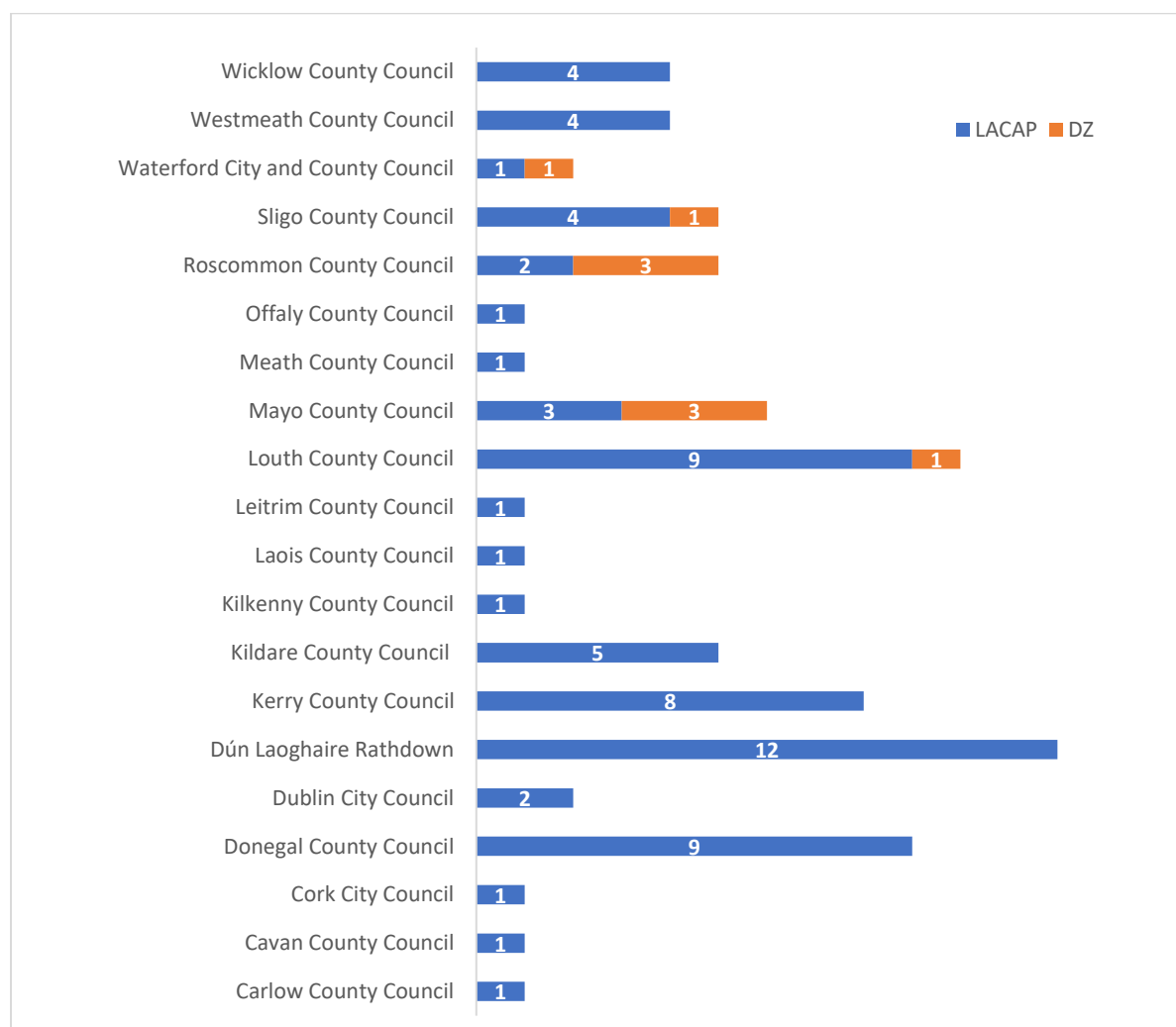


Figure 1: Breakdown of NPWS stakeholder actions according to Local Authority LACAP and DZ

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 NPWS as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 51% of the total number of LACAP actions that cite the NPWS as a stakeholder address both mitigation and adaptation while 29% are specifically mitigation actions and 20% specifically relate to adaptation.

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of DZ actions that cite the NPWS as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 56% of the total number of DZ actions that cite the NPWS as a stakeholder address both mitigation and adaptation while 22% are specifically mitigation and 22% are specifically adaptation actions.

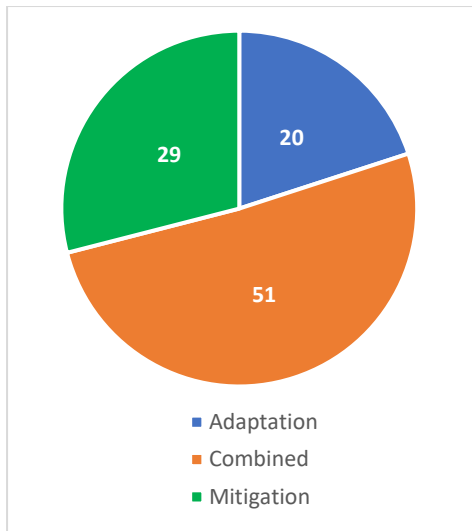


Figure 2: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of LACAP NPWS stakeholder actions

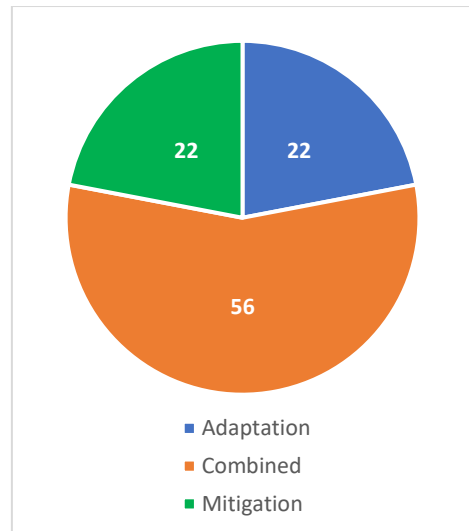


Figure 3: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of DZ NPWS stakeholder actions

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 NPWS as a stakeholder according to Tier 1 Category with actions classified into 8 of the possible 11 categories.



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

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It is apparent that a significant majority of all LACAP and DZ actions that cite the NPWS as a stakeholder are associated with natural assets/LULUCF with lower numbers associated with the themes of Community and Local Authority owned and/or managed infrastructure/assets. The types of actions that are listed under each of these categories are as follows:

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

- Invasive species.
- Nature based solutions.
- Training.
- Implementation of plans and policies in relation to biodiversity, peatlands, trees, hedgerows.
- Management of protected areas.
- Habitat and species plans.
- Wildfire management plans.

Community:

- Citizen science initiatives.
- Education and awareness raising.

Local Authority owned and/or managed infrastructure/assets:

- Ecological surveys of local authority owned lands.
- Green infrastructure management.

All 71 LACAP and 9 DZ actions that cite the NPWS as a stakeholder are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

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

Local Authority	Action No	Action
Carlow County Council	NE 1.8	Develop a Native Tree Strategy to provide the vision and direction for long-term planning, planting, protection and maintenance of native trees, hedgerows and woodlands within Carlow Town and County
Cavan County Council	S 16	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.
Cork City Council	5.2	Implement Cork City Council's Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2021-2026, including the protection, restoration and enhancement of rivers and wetlands; protection and promotion of designated habitats and species.
Donegal County Council	GL 4.5	Implement the County Heritage Plan to record, conserve and raise awareness of all aspects of built, natural, archaeological and cultural heritage.
Donegal County Council	NE 1.1	Prepare and begin to implement a Biodiversity Action Plan for the County to protect and enhance local biodiversity including climate-resilient measures.
Donegal County Council	NE 1.2	Support national and regional initiatives to undertake an audit of local authority land and assess biodiversity potential with respect to climate considerations.
Donegal County Council	NE 1.3	Support national and regional initiatives to conduct a county wetland survey and start to implement recommendations in terms of conservation and restoration of wetlands.
Donegal County Council	NE 1.6	Support national and regional initiatives in the rehabilitation of peatland as a carbon sink and provide habitat for biodiversity.
Donegal County Council	NE 1.8	Review and implement Council's commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan through the development of a Pollinator Work Programme.
Donegal County Council	NE 4.1	Develop a protocol for the application of NBS to Council projects and provide training on same.
Donegal County Council	NE 4.3	Based on Nature Based Solutions opportunity mapping, assess feasibility and consider multi benefits of implementation within an overall NBS road map.
Donegal County Council	NE 4.4	Based on NBS road maps, seek funding opportunities for implementing NBS in appropriate catchments throughout Donegal.
Dublin City Council	EP 29	Implement and promote the objectives of the Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere Partnership and promote the work of the Biosphere
Dublin City Council	EP 30	Work with the Dublin Mountains Partnership on implementing strategic plans and activities for Climate Change mitigation and biodiversity enhancement.

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Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 1	Implement the current County Biodiversity Action and Invasive Species Action Plans
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 3	Expansion of pollinator areas and Bee friendly estates across the County and continued support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 7	Assessment and remediation options of the impacts on important ecosystems, habitats, and species from the protection/management measures to mitigate or adapt to climate change
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 9	Prepare and implement a Habitat and Species Management Plan for Killiney and Roches Hill proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) in the face of climate change and wildfires
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 10	Prepare a Habitat and Species Management Plan for Booterstown Marsh proposed Natural Heritage Areas (p.N.H.A.) a Protected Plant Species Site and part of the South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area subject to the agreement of the National Parks and Wildlife Service
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 12	Develop guidance on biodiversity and cycleways/pathways to ensure that the location and design of greenways is not at the loss of biodiversity and to provide guidance on biodiversity enhancements
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 15	Finalise and Implement Wildfire Strategy for Killiney Hill and Roches Hill
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 19	Agree joint action plans to protect important native habitats and species of the County
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 21	Protect and conserve floodplains, wetlands, and coastal areas including those subject to flooding
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 22	Implement Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy in line with EU GI definition and policies that incorporates climate change mitigation and adaptation
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	C 17	Provide education and raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and water quality
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	C 18	Organise activities and events to promote biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services
Kerry County Council	2.1.7	Support existing citizen science initiatives, including those focusing on water quality, through the National Biodiversity Data Centre biodiversity recording scheme.
Kerry County Council	2.1.9	Develop a strategy to identify public areas that are in need of treatment of invasive species which may threaten important habitats and species.
Kerry County Council	2.1.11	Integrate Nature Based Solutions, including biodiversity water protection measures and sustainable rainwater management practices, into Local Authority Own Developments including public realm/Section 38 and Active Travel projects, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity European

		sites and cultural heritage considerations and actively support initiatives which demonstrate and publicise successful nature-based solutions.
Kerry County Council	2.2.1	Support Green and Blue Infrastructure at appropriate locations in the county and increase connectivity of the protected areas network using appropriate buffer zones, corridors, stepping-stones and/or flyways, having due regard to opportunities to promote climate action co-benefits, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity European sites and cultural heritage considerations.
Kerry County Council	2.2.2	Flood alleviation projects and coastal protection schemes to investigate the use of Nature Based Solutions. having due regard for environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
Kerry County Council	2.2.4	Work with stakeholders to protect coastal environments through the use, where possible, of such measures as bye-laws, controlled parking and Nature Based Solutions.
Kerry County Council	2.3.2	Work with stakeholders in the designation of nature conservation sites on land and our coastal waters.
Kerry County Council	2.4.4	Continue to enforce the provisions of the Planning and Development Act and Regulations, as amended, as they relate to the protection of natural heritage, including habitats classed as wetlands.
Kildare County Council	G9	Collaborate with other local authorities, government departments and agencies on the implementation of this Plan to create a joined up and consistent approach such as through Climate Adaptation Planning which should be developed with other local authorities that share a river catchment.
Kildare County Council	N2	Identify all local authority land, carry out ecological/habitat survey and highlight areas at risk and those suitable for restoration and enhanced carbon storage, also identifying potential wildlife corridors for protection through statutory plans.
Kildare County Council	N9	Develop integrated programme to address Invasive Alien Species
Kildare County Council	N10	Develop a plan of action to protect, conserve and enhance the wetlands identified in the County Kildare Wetland Survey 2012-2014 (including Pollardstown Fen). This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.
Kildare County Council	N11	Prepare guidance document and training on quality rating and management prescription of hedgerows in open space for Council staff and developers, having due regard to hedgerow and riparian area conservation requirements and the need to avoid habitat fragmentation
Kilkenny County Council	3.6	Identify, map and utilise local authority owned land for habitat enhancement/restoration and nature-based solutions, whilst taking measures to promote the use of native plant/animal species over non-natives, as appropriate.

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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	SR 17	Creation of a sustainable agriculture working group for Leitrim, in association with entities such as Teagasc, Dept of Agriculture and NPWS to support the agricultural sector with their GHG emissions reduction requirement.
Louth County Council	NEGI 1	Support the full delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth 2021 – 2026
Louth County Council	NEGI 4	Enact all local authority relevant actions in Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2027
Louth County Council	NEGI 5	Support existing citizen science initiatives through the National Biodiversity Data Centre biodiversity recording through training of public/stakeholders and publicising schemes and resources.
Louth County Council	NEGI 8	Update Fire management plan for Cooley Mountains. Ecological expertise shall be sought during plan updating. The plan shall have due regard to the need to appropriately protect important habitats.
Louth County Council	NEGI 9	Develop a Coastal protection plan for Louth. Ensure the plan has due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value.
Louth County Council	NEGI 12	Implement Louth County Council hedgerow and trees policy. Ensure that the policy promotes the use of native species over non-natives and has due regard for water quality and soil stability issues.
Louth County Council	NEGI 13	Develop Louth County Wetland Action Plan. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.
Louth County Council	NEGI 17	Deliver Ramparts River Rejuvenation project
Louth County Council	NEGI 18	Alien invasive species plan for Louth, This plan 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.
Mayo County Council	1.4	Convert all public lighting within County Mayo to low energy LED lighting and develop a lighting policy while having due regard to impact of light used on biodiversity.
Mayo County Council	13	Prepare a tree management plan, incorporating a strategy to increase overall tree canopy cover in County Mayo, through climate appropriate management of existing and future stock that targets planting in appropriate place with appropriate planting mixes.
Mayo County Council	17	Develop a County Light Pollution Policy and support the development of Mayo International Dark Sky Reserve
Meath County Council	NE 2	Commence a programme of auditing of LA lands to carry out ecological and habitat surveys and highlight areas at risk and those suitable for restoration and enhanced carbon storage.

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Offaly County Council	NE 4.2.5	Assess all new development for the implementation of natural water retention measures
Roscommon County Council	NEGI 9	Continue and expand the source protection programme as part of rural water operations. Incorporate the award-winning project into the Climate Action programme as a successful template for cooperative action between local authorities, communities and state agencies
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.
Sligo County Council	26	Continue to promote & support the Green Club Programme
Sligo County Council	30	Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for Co. Sligo which addresses all of the relevant climate related issues & includes appropriate actions which supports green & blue infrastructure, NBSs, integrates biodiversity considerations into new & existing operations & developments. The implementation of the Biodiversity Plan will be underpinned by ecological surveys and assessments to ensure interventions are appropriate to the receiving environment.
Sligo County Council	33	Continue to monitor coastal erosion along Sligo shoreline and maintain existing sea defences, considering application of nature based solutions, and in line with conservation management objectives of European Sites.
Sligo County Council	36	Create working group on Nature Based Solutions to identify suitable options and explore their use and expansion within the County.
Waterford City & County Council	3.18	Prepare strategic wildfire management plan for high-risk areas
Westmeath County Council	3.1	Continue to promote Biodiversity and protect Natural Heritage in line with WCC Biodiversity Plan 2014-2020. Implement relevant actions of the Built Heritage and Archaeology Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019. Resource and implement relevant actions of the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the Biodiversity Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan.
Westmeath County Council	3.3	Natural borders/buffers to be included as an integral component of the design of greenways/blueways, tracks and trails and amenity areas to promote natural enhancement. Ensure appropriate buffer zones are provided, maintained and protected to avoid potential impacts on designated habitats or protected species and habitats, and to protect and enhance wider biodiversity.
Westmeath County Council	3.4	Develop and support the proposed Tree Management Strategy which seeks to protect existing trees, promote native tree planting and advise on the appropriate maintenance of existing tree stock. Appropriate training regarding tree care and maintenance shall be undertaken by applicable staff regularly in line with the Tree Management Strategy.
Westmeath County Council	5.3	Identify, where appropriate, areas considered beneficial for use as local carbon offset through carbon sequestration, having appropriate regard to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria.

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Wicklow County Council	24 NEGI	Assist local community stakeholders engaging in peatland rewetting, woodland creation and nature restoration to access funding to undertake projects in upland areas, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects are designed and implemented in a manner that accords with relevant environmental protection requirements.
Wicklow County Council	25 NEGI	Host an annual uplands forum to develop an integrated partnership with key stakeholders to develop carbon sequestration, catchment management and tackle recreational pressures on upland sites delivering protection of habitat.
Wicklow County Council	26 NEGI	Develop a hill and forest fire management response and prevention strategy, including protocols for responding to fires, enforcement, awareness campaigns of the impact of fires and systems to measure the extent and economic costs of fires having appropriate regard to the need to support the achievement of conservation objectives and protect and enhance important habitats or the qualifying interests of any protected sites.
Wicklow County Council	27 NEGI	Work with stakeholders to delineate and establish a Dark Sky Reserve for County Wicklow. Undertaking a light assessment of Laragh and Roundwood to explore opportunities to reduce light pollution.

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

Local Authority	Action no	Action
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
Mayo County Council	DZ 4	Explore the development of UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve
Mayo County Council	DZ 5	Support the implementation of the Mulranny Community Futures Plan, Village Design Statement, Tourism and Biodiversity Plans
Mayo County Council	DZ 27	Develop an integrated biodiverse master plan across the landscapes, seascapes and skylscapes of Mayo's decarbonising zone that embeds nature-based solutions, interventions and support in appropriate locations.
Roscommon County Council	DZ 4	Develop a climate change risk and vulnerability assessment against which proposed public and private development within the DZ can be proofed.
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.
Roscommon County Council	DZ 6	Implement the provisions of the Tree Management Strategy with a focus on native trees, in all RCC functional areas within the DZ to promote canopy health and expansion and enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity.
Sligo County Council	6	Commission a detailed study on the potential for carbon sequestration within the DZ.
Waterford City & County Council	DZ 4.3	Equip existing Council buildings with a building automation and control system before 31 December 2024 where the effective rated output for heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems is over a threshold of 290kW

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