



*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.*

**December 2024**

# **Local Authority Climate Action Plans**

## **Agriculture and Food Sectoral 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 a five-year statutory remit. The LACAPs aim to deliver global and national climate targets and implement national climate policy at 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 (DZ) where a 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 DZ plans be integrated with the LACAP.

The Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs), which coordinate the Local Authority response to climate change, have carried out an [analysis of the 31 Local Authority Climate Action Plans](#) that were adopted by Irish Local authorities in 2024. The analysis is useful in terms of providing an understanding of the scope and reach of the LACAPs as well as the focus of the local government sector’s climate action efforts for the next five years.

One element of the analysis identified the sectors that are relevant to each of the actions that have been adopted in the 31 LACAPs with most actions being relevant to more than one sector. For the purpose of the analysis, a sector is considered to be a distinct part of society or the economy with examples including health, transport, education, and others. Figure 1 shows the distribution of sectors across all LACAP actions. Given that the LACAPs are plans of local government, it is not surprising that the local government sector is listed as being relevant to almost all actions.

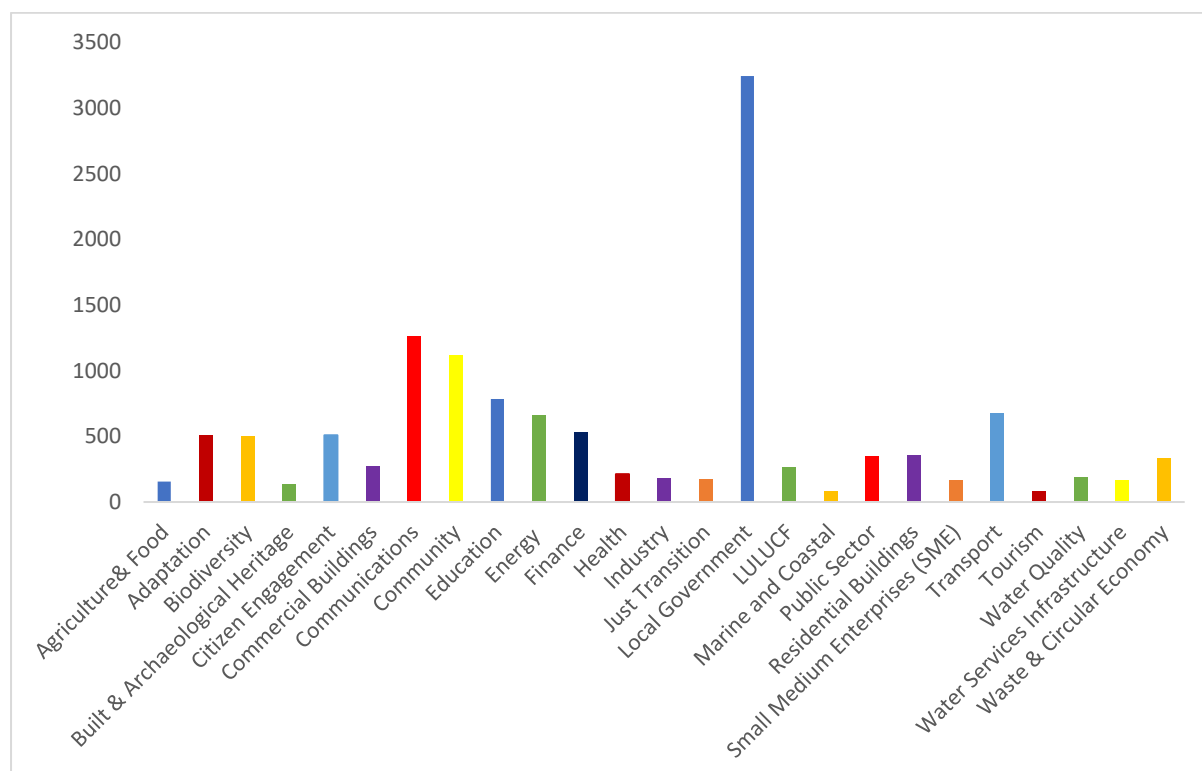


Figure 1: Breakdown of LACAP actions according to sector

Following on from the publication of the analysis of the 31 Local Authority Climate Action Plans, the CAROs have produced summary reports for each of the sectors that have been identified as being relevant to the delivery of LACAP and DZ actions. The aim of these [sectoral reports](#) is to steer sectors towards the local authorities and actions that are most relevant to them, to facilitate more informed sectoral engagement and to assist sectors in the preparation of their own plans.

This sectoral report has been prepared for the **Agriculture & Food** sector.

*Please note that this is a high-level assessment performed by the CAROs to inform the Agriculture & Food sector. 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. A CARO project group was established to build and contribute to the database. The database was populated by the individual actions that were adopted by all 31 local authorities.

The CARO team assessed and categorised each individual action under pre-determined high-level classifications including thematic focus area, related sector, action type i.e. mitigation or adaptation, organisation or community focus, stakeholders identified, etc.

Actions were further categorised using a three-tier process. Each action was initially classified as one of 11 Tier 1 categories and then further classified by Tier 2 and Tier 3 sub-category (over 300 Tier 2 and Tier 3 sub-categories). The Tier 1 categories under which actions were initially classified were:

1. Local Authority Organisation
2. Local Authority Owned or Managed Buildings –including administrative buildings, social housing and other community buildings (e.g. libraries, swimming pools, etc)
3. Local Authority Owned or Managed Infrastructure –including assets such as roads, public lighting, land, parks, heritage assets, communication networks, EV charging infrastructure, draining systems, etc.
4. Local Authority Finance or Budgets
5. Planning
6. Community
7. Active and Sustainable Travel
8. Climate Impact Management
9. Waste and Circular Economy
10. Natural Assets and LULUCF
11. Tourism

The 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 selected Decarbonising Zone (DZ) to test, pilot and demonstrate decarbonising at a local and community level.

High level analysis of the LACAPs including Decarbonising Zone reveals the following:

- In total, **3,935** actions have been adopted across all 31 LACAPs.
- **3282** of these actions relate to the whole local authority administrative area and are referred to as LACAP actions.
- **653** of these actions relate specifically to Decarbonizing Zones (DZs) that have been identified by the local authority and are referred to as DZ actions.
- There is a wide variation in numbers of actions across the 31 LACAPs reflecting a difference in approach to defining actions rather than a difference in level of ambition between local authorities.
- There is also a wide variation in numbers of DZ actions across the 31 LACAPs.
- 8 local authorities did not identify individual actions for their DZ. It should be noted that the approach that most of these local authorities have taken is to develop and adopt a Register of Opportunities which is a portfolio of projects, technologies and interventions from which individual actions will be identified during the implementation stage.

### 4. Agriculture and Food Sector Actions:

This report has been prepared for the **Agriculture & Food** sector. An analysis of all 3282 actions in 31 LACAPs has concluded that:

- **155** of all 3282 actions relate to the Agriculture and Food sector.
- these are contained all **31** LACAPs.

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

- **24** of the total DZ actions relate to the Agriculture and Food sector.
- These are contained in **12** of the DZ plans (taking note that 8 local authorities did not list individual actions for their DZs).

Figure 2 shows the distribution of Agriculture and Food actions across all local authority Climate Action Plans (LACAP) and Decarbonising Zones (DZ).

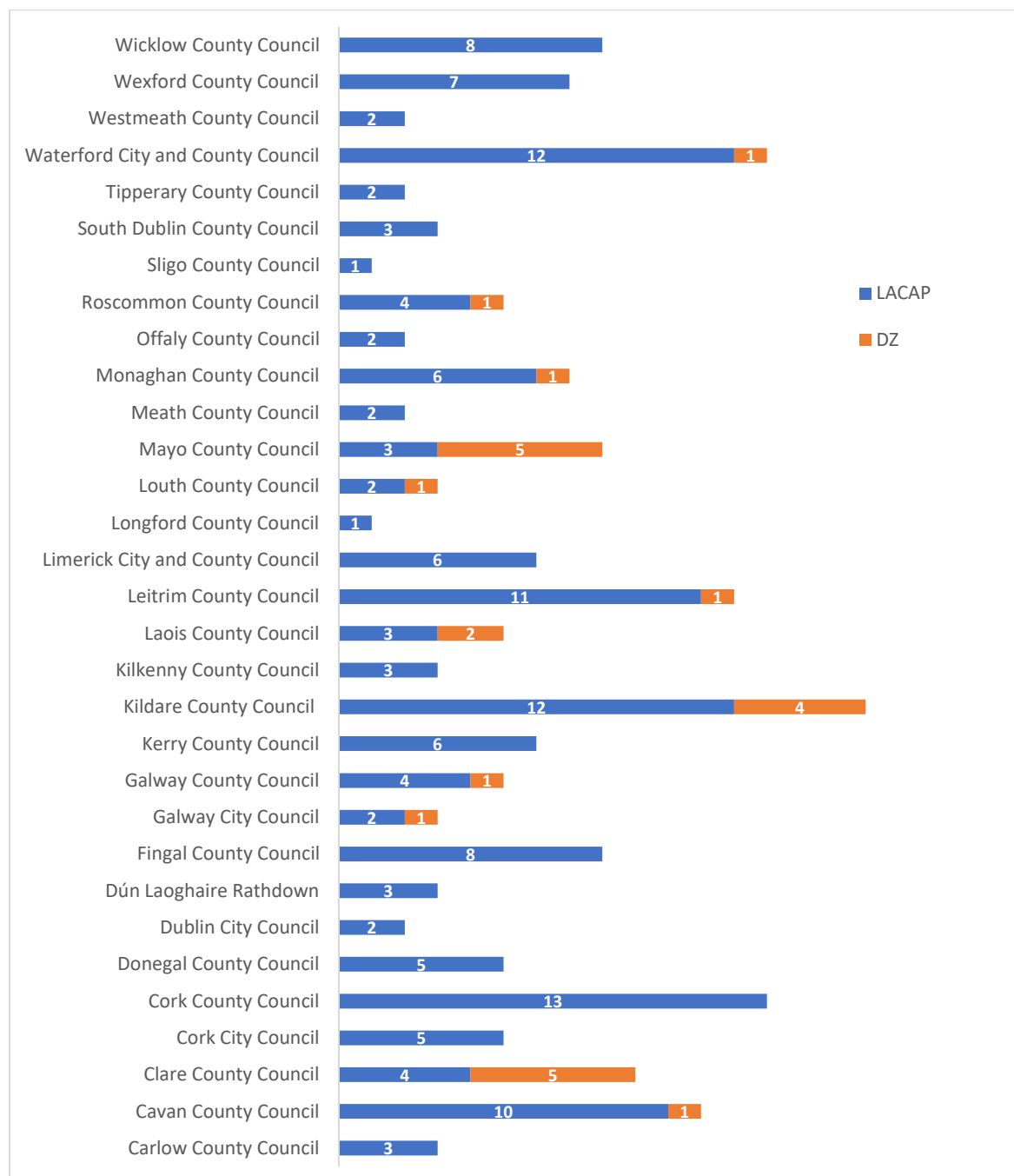


Figure 2: Breakdown of Agriculture and Food sector LACAP and DZ actions according to Local Authority

### 4.1. Adaptation/Mitigation

All LACAPs identify adaptation and mitigation actions that will be implemented by the relevant local authority to reach its climate targets. 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 3 shows the breakdown of LACAP actions relating to the Agriculture and Food sector according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 56% of the total number of Agriculture and Food sector actions across all LACAPs address both mitigation and adaptation while 30% are specifically mitigation actions and 14% specifically relate to adaptation.

Figure 4 shows the breakdown of DZ actions relating to the Agriculture and Food sector according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 46% of the total number of Agriculture and Food sector actions across all DZs address both mitigation and adaptation while 37% are specifically mitigation actions and 17% specifically relate to adaptation.

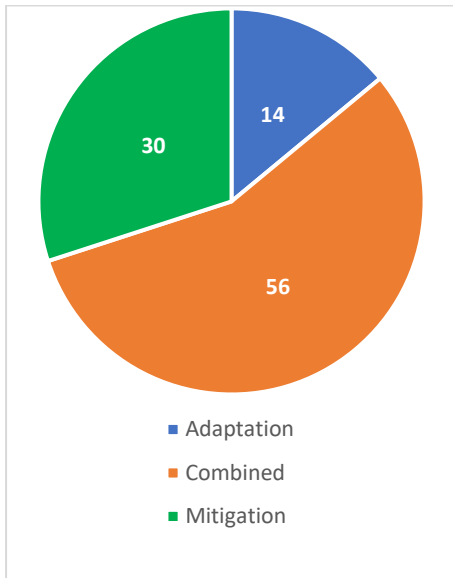


Figure 3: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of LACAP actions relating to the Agriculture and Food sector

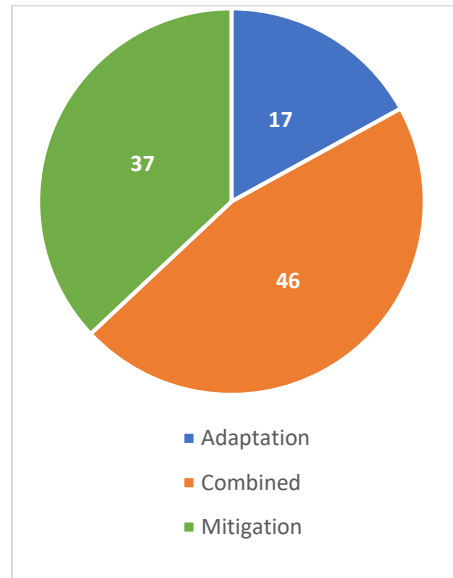


Figure 4: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of DZ actions relating to the Agriculture and Food sector

## 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 5 shows the breakdown of all LACAP and DZ Agriculture and Food sector actions according to Tier 1 Category with actions classified into 7 of the possible 11 categories.

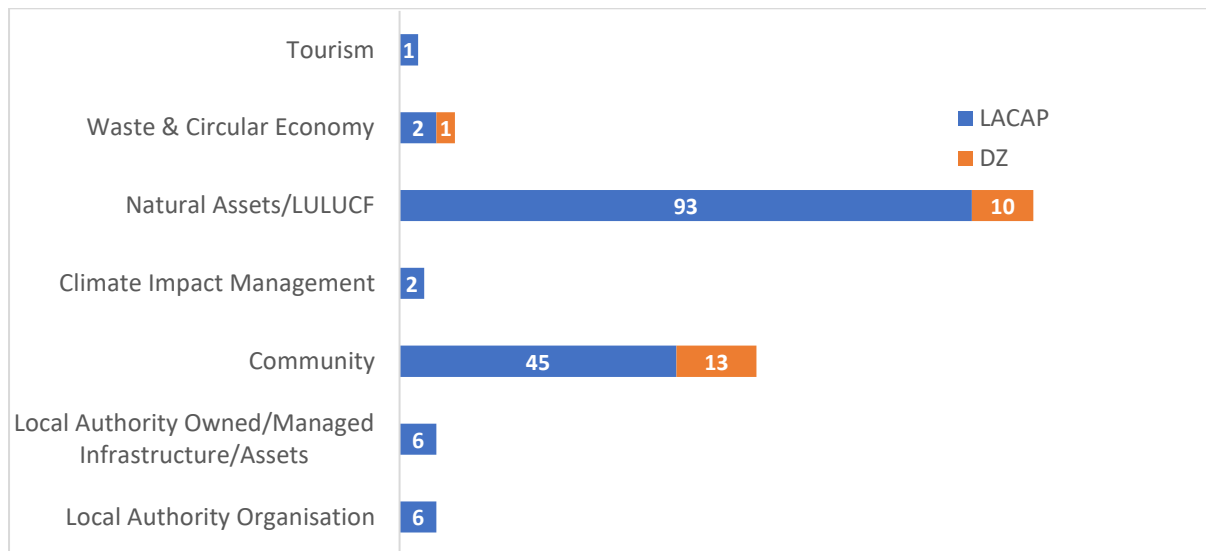


Figure 5: Tier 1 classification of LACAP and DZ Agriculture and Food sector actions

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It is apparent that the majority of Agriculture and Food sector actions are associated with the broad themes of natural assets/LULUCF and community. 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 policy and practices.
- Biodiversity in farming- awareness and support.
- Forestry and woodland planting.
- Restoration and management of wetlands.
- Agricultural practices to protect water catchments.
- Support transition to sustainable farming practices and food products through education, enforcement and grant schemes.
- Research and knowledge building.
- Inspections.

*Community*

- Support country markets and farmers markets.
- Support local food production.
- Support schools and community to grow food.
- Awareness and capacity building.
- Community gardens and allotments.

All 155 LACAP and 24 DZ actions that have been identified as being relevant to the Agriculture and Food sector are listed in Tables 1 and 2.



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Table 1: LACAP actions that relate to the Agriculture and Food sector

Local Authority	Action no	Action
Carlow County Council	NE 1.3	Prepare guidelines for Invasive Alien Species Management
Carlow County Council	C 1.6	Develop Community Garden Guidelines to promote sustainable community gardening in Carlow
Carlow County Council	C 1.7	Develop and adopt a community Garden & Allotment Policy for Carlow County Council
Cavan County Council	N 4	Prepare guidelines for Invasive Alien Species Management. These guidelines shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage and prevent the spread of invasive species.
Cavan County Council	S 13	Development and implementation of a toolkit that can be utilised by staff during farm inspections to engage with the farmers on climate action. Provision of appropriate training for staff on the utilisation of the toolkit.
Cavan County Council	S 14	Coordinate and facilitate workshops and the preparation of guidance tools in conjunction with other stakeholders to assist farmers in taking up biodiversity opportunities at farm level, including information on food production, organic, sustainable and regenerative farming techniques or alternatives.
Cavan County Council	S 15	Promotion of diversification in food production through the economic and enterprise remit. Highlight positive benefits of Locally Grown Food, having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by any built development such as the receiving water environment and local air quality.
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.
Cavan County Council	S 17	Support the development of country and farmers' markets as key trading areas for the sale of local agricultural and craft produce and to support their role.
Cavan County Council	S 18	Support locally produced sustainable food products. Promote sustainable farm practices.
Cavan County Council	S 19	Provide technical supports to farming enterprises in the development of biomethane from Anaerobic Digestion, including guidance on planning and environmental protection requirements, having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by any built development such as the receiving water environment and local air quality.
Cavan County Council	S 20	Support and promote the Signpost Advisory Programme to support climate and sustainability actions on farms, having due regard to environmental sensitivities in the area such as European Sites, water quality, air quality, and biodiversity related sensitivities.
Cavan County Council	S 21	Support farmers in reducing chemical nitrogen fertiliser use by 20% by 2030 increasing the use of protected urea and increasing the uptake of low emission slurry spreading to 90% of farms.
Clare County Council	C 2.4	Support an increase in the number of farmers partaking in the Teagasc Signpost Programme

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Clare County Council	N 2.2	Undertake inspections to ensure compliance with discharge license requirements
Clare County Council	N 2.4	Meet annual inspection targets as per the EPA National Agriculture Inspection Plan
Clare County Council	N 3.2	Investigate the development of suitably located composting centres to promote circularity of green waste and support development of community gardens and allotments
Cork City Council	2.18	Extend support to the existing network of community gardens, and actively promote the establishment of new gardens with residents' associations and community groups.
Cork City Council	5.21	Implement and monitor bio-security measurements for any plants and trees planted within the public realm.
Cork City Council	5.29	Enforce requirements under Nitrates Directives and septic-tank and well-water control measures on all farms in the city.
Cork City Council	5.3	Support the Cork Food Policy Council in feasibility study on the development of a Local Food Sustainability Co-operative/hub.
Cork City Council	5.31	Support the Cork Food Policy Council to develop a robust sustainable food strategy for the city.
Cork County Council	4.4.1.9.1	Promote and support community growing projects, allotments and community gardens, where suitable land is available, as a way that communities can grow their own food, lower food miles and food waste.
Cork County Council	4.4.1.9.3	Encourage communities to buy local (to reduce food miles and to support the local economy) and work with stakeholders and communities to reduce food waste
Cork County Council	4.5.1.2.2	Work with stakeholders to carry out a county wide survey to identify and map wetlands; protect and restore wetlands in Local Authority control; and to support landowners and others to protect and restore wetlands in accordance with relevant environmental protection requirements, including water quality, habitat and protected species related requirements.
Cork County Council	4.5.1.5.1	Develop an Invasive Alien Species Policy for the county and examine benefits of preparing response plans to specific invasive species.
Cork County Council	4,5,3,2,6	Support stakeholders in incorporating biodiversity in land use, and work to support the protection of high-nature-value farmland and associated grassland biodiversity through sustainable measures such as farming practices that support soil sequestration.
Cork County Council	4.5.5.1.1	Encourage the promotion of sustainable land use practices and nature-based solutions to water resource management and flooding which can enhance community resilience by providing natural flood defences, promoting climate adaptation, having due regard to environmental sensitivities, including Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and sensitive human receptors.
Cork County Council	4.6.1.1.9	Encourage the development of locally sustainable enterprises in the County as well as a culture for shopping locally, including shops and farmers markets.
Cork County Council	4.6.1.5.1	Participate in a national public awareness campaign to promote householders' knowledge of how their septic tank works and the effects of septic tank and agricultural runoff on bathing water. Provide information and advice on what routine maintenance should be carried out.

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Cork County Council	4.6.1.5.2	Run an awareness campaign, in partnership with stakeholders, to advise farmers and the public of the requirement not to spread slurry during the closed period and to encourage the public to report any such incidents to Cork County Council.
Cork County Council	4.6.1.5.4	Work with stakeholders to promote local food, thereby reducing food miles.
Cork County Council	4.6.1.5.5	Work in partnership with farmers to improve practices and infrastructure, whilst promoting the need for farming enterprises to consider relevant planning and environmental protection requirements.
Cork County Council	4.6.1.6.1	Meet annual inspection targets as per EPA National Agriculture Inspection Plan. This reduces emissions associated with farmyards and in turn protects biodiversity of receiving waters and public health.
Cork County Council	4.6.1.8.1	Assist in the improvement of water quality standards as set out in the Water Framework Directive through the agricultural inspection programmes.
Donegal County Council	CR 1.4	Work with local partners to develop Community Gardens in Donegal to support reducing greenhouse gases, improving food security, improving biodiversity and adapting to climate change impacts.
Donegal County Council	SR 4.1	Support other agencies in their development of a joined-up awareness/knowledge transfer strategy for the agricultural and food sectors.
Donegal County Council	SR 4.2	Support other agencies in their development of a tool kit and training programme for engagement during routine farm visits.
Donegal County Council	SR 4.3	Use the forthcoming County Biodiversity Action Plan as a vehicle to highlight the range of biodiversity opportunities that can be taken up at farm level.
Donegal County Council	SR 4.4	Support Organic and Regenerative Farming Practices by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for training in sales and marketing for farmers producing for local markets</li> <li>• Supporting the provision of market spaces within public realm improvements</li> <li>• Supporting local trading</li> <li>• Promoting the Grow it Yourself movement by highlighting the positive benefits of locally grown organic produce, community food growing and regenerative farming practices.</li> </ul>
Dublin City Council	R 4.1	Establish Eat the Streets Programme
Dublin City Council	R 4.2	Implementation of Markets Strategy
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 5	Establish a grant scheme to landowners for the development of a Biodiversity Plan by an Ecologist and to assist the implementation of the Plan's recommendations
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	N 25	Expand the community garden model developed at Fernhill Park to other locations in the County; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	C 11	Encourage and support schools implementing the An Taisce Green-Schools Programme and the Farmer Time Programme

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Fingal County Council	N 16	Continue supporting the use of public allotments and community gardens as a way communities can grow their own food, and lower food miles and food waste.
Fingal County Council	N 17	Map and protect strategic agricultural land for national food security purposes
Fingal County Council	N 18	Engage with the agri-food sector to gain an understanding of how Fingal might better support more sustainable farming practices
Fingal County Council	N 19	Develop climate change initiatives in partnership with local farmers and other stakeholders
Fingal County Council	R 21	Assess Council lands & buildings for potential for renewable energy, biodiversity; green infrastructure, sustainable agriculture & other sustainable projects.
Fingal County Council	R 22	Develop renewable energy, green infrastructure, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture & other sustainable projects on Council lands & buildings.
Fingal County Council	C 8	Provide resources including funding to schools in Fingal as support to engage in resource management projects. Projects may include composting for schools, gardening and vegetable growing projects, resources packs and installation of water butts.
Fingal County Council	C 22	Establish an Agri-Food Skills Sub-Group under Fingal Skills Strategy to promote diversification within the Agri-Food Sector
Galway City Council	36	Develop and implement actions in the forthcoming Galway City Invasive Alien Species Strategy (GCIAS) 2024-2034 Strategy.
Galway City Council	40	Promote local and lower carbon footprint food production, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote and increase local growing and food sharing through community gardens/hubs and allotments throughout Galway City.</li> <li>- Identify new areas for community gardens.</li> <li>- Reduce use of fertilizers by increasing the use of locally produced compost.</li> </ul>
Galway County Council	LN 1.1	Support farmers in the shift toward low-carbon and climate-resilient agricultural practices, including innovative farming practices such as paludiculture. Work with relevant agencies to develop and implement a joined-up awareness/knowledge transfer strategy for the agricultural and food sectors. Develop a tool kit and training programme for engagement during routine farm visits.
Galway County Council	LN 1.2	Work with the BIA Innovation Centre to support climate action in the food and agriculture sector.
Galway County Council	LN 1.3	Protect water quality and air quality by carrying out inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems, discharge licences, farms and fuel suppliers as per national requirements and as required. Support remediation and mitigation measures required to maintain or achieve good or high quality water status in the county.
Galway County Council	LN 2.1	Identify priority areas for habitat restoration and protection for carbon and biodiversity benefits. Work with stakeholders including landowners and Local Authority to identify opportunities to deliver restoration. Investigate opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain investment.

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Kerry County Council	2.1.5	Work with community groups linking sustainable food production and biodiversity and support allotment network in the county.
Kerry County Council	2.1.10	Investigate drafting a Community Garden/Allotment policy for the county, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
Kerry County Council	2.3.6	Support the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine's 2020 scheme for Woodland Creation on Public Lands in appropriate locations, whilst promoting the creation of native woodlands specifically.
Kerry County Council	2.4.5	Support actions from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine's 2020 Ag Climatise: A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality.
Kerry County Council	2.4.6	Support European Innovation Partnership (EIPs); EU LIFE projects; ACRES and other existing or proposed natural heritage programmes/agri-environmental schemes in the county.
Kerry County Council	5.6.1	Work with agricultural partners to support their actions for renewable energy use; emissions reduction; biodiversity and water quality, whilst promoting the need to consider environmental protection during the design and operation of supported renewable energy systems.
Kildare County Council	N5	Prepare a guidance document and training on the importance of, quality rating and sustainable management of the hedgerows and riparian areas, for Council staff and external stakeholders including farmers/landowners having due regard to hedgerow and riparian area conservation requirements and the need to avoid habitat fragmentation
Kildare County Council	N9	Develop integrated programme to address Invasive Alien Species
Kildare County Council	N15	Devise a county native tree management plan which seeks to retain existing native provenance trees, support the planting of native provenance trees, and identify sites for native and mixed woodland planting. Set targets to maintain existing and plant new native provenance trees in urban and rural areas, to enhance carbon storage, biodiversity and landscape, air quality, and urban heat island mitigation. Increase range of edible native provenance locally sourced fruits, flowers and vegetables in Council Parks, rooftops and open spaces.
Kildare County Council	N19	Support farmers in the shift toward a low-carbon and climate resilient agriculture sector in County Kildare including the diversification of farming practices to increased tillage, horticulture or alternative land uses
Kildare County Council	N20	Support and promote the Signpost Advisory Programme to support climate and sustainability actions on farms.
Kildare County Council	N21	Promote the shift to organic farming within the County.
Kildare County Council	N22	Support farmers in reducing chemical nitrogen fertiliser use by 20% by 2030, increasing the use of protected urea and increasing the uptake of low emission slurry spreading to 90% of farms.
Kildare County Council	N23	Provide technical supports to farming enterprises in the development of biomethane from Anaerobic Digestion, including guidance on planning and environmental protection requirements.
Kildare County Council	N24	Promote innovative solutions in the agri-food sector to reduce the carbon intensity of agrifood products on Kildare farm enterprises.

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Kildare County Council	N25	Develop pesticide use policy for the County, ensuring these substances are only used to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.
Kildare County Council	N26	Support farmers in reducing the crude protein content of animal feed, increasing the focus on low-methane traits within animal breeding programmes and encouraging processors and farmers to reduce the average age of slaughter to 24 – 25 months from the current average of 26.5 months.
Kildare County Council	N27	Explore the feasibility of the development of allotments and community gardens in the County to support sustainable food production.
Kilkenny County Council	3.2	Promote and facilitate tree, woodland and hedgerow protection, planting and management on public and private land whilst taking measures to promote the use of native species over non-natives and having due regard for water quality and soil stability issues whilst undertaking the planning process.
Kilkenny County Council	3.4	Deliver a Pollinator Programme to protect and enhance pollinator habitats on Council owned land and in the wider county, whilst taking measures to promote the use of native plant species over nonnatives, as appropriate.
Kilkenny County Council	4.12	Support climate action on farms through local authority policy and programmes
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
Laois County Council	78	Laois County Council will work with partner bodies to continue to raise awareness on Good Agricultural Practices and diversification in the local agricultural sector to e.g. smart farming, farming for nature.
Laois County Council	114	Laois County Council will support community based food growing initiatives through the development of community gardening guidelines
Leitrim County Council	N 3	Develop an integrated programme to raise awareness of invasive alien species to help prevent, manage and eradicate invasive species in the county.
Leitrim County Council	CRT 14	Promote and encourage community allotments.
Leitrim County Council	CRT 21	Develop a Seed Library within the Leitrim County Council Libraries
Leitrim County Council	SR 15	Development and implementation of a toolkit that can be utilised by staff during farm inspections to engage with the farmers on climate action. Provision of appropriate training for staff on the utilisation of the toolkit.
Leitrim County Council	SR 16	Promotion of sustainable diversification in sustainable food production through the economic and enterprise remit. Highlight positive benefits of sustainably sourced locally grown food.
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.
Leitrim County Council	SR 18	Support the development of country and farmers' markets as key trading areas for the sale of local agricultural and craft produce and to support their role. Support locally produced sustainable food products.

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Leitrim County Council	SR 19	Promote sustainable farm practices.
Leitrim County Council	SR 20	Provide technical supports to farming enterprises in the development of biomethane from Anaerobic Digestion, including guidance on planning and environmental protection requirements having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by the construction and operation of Anaerobic Digestion systems (e.g. water quality, air quality, biodiversity, European sites).
Leitrim County Council	SR 21	Support and promote the Signpost Advisory Programme to support climate and sustainability actions on farms having due regard to environmental sensitivities in the area such as European sites, water quality, air quality and biodiversity related sensitivities.
Leitrim County Council	SR 22	Support farmers in reducing chemical nitrogen fertiliser use by 20% by 2030, increasing the use of protected urea and increasing the uptake of low emission slurry spreading to 90% of farms.
Limerick City & County Council	N 2	Set targets to maintain existing woodlands in good condition and plant new native trees in urban and rural areas, subject to independent ecological assessment, to enhance carbon storage, biodiversity and landscape, air quality, and urban heat island mitigation.
Limerick City & County Council	N 3	A wetland survey will inform council strategy and planning documents and implement recommendations in terms of conservation and restoration of wetlands.
Limerick City & County Council	N 4	Develop a Local Food Growing Strategy and expand the number of community growing projects and support them with skills training, materials and capacity building.
Limerick City & County Council	N 6	Deliver a habitat protection and creation of new habitats, landscapes, hedgerows strategy having 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. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.
Limerick City & County Council	N 11	Identify urban areas, towns and villages to be greened (tree planting, pollinators, community gardens, sensory gardens, allotments natural play areas) using native species.
Limerick City & County Council	N 15	Meet annual inspection targets as per EPA National Agriculture Inspection Plan while ensuring sustainable transport modes are used to travel to and from inspection sites, where feasible.
Longford County Council	52	Longford County Council will regulate and support the safe production of sustainable local food of animal origin.
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.
Louth County Council	CRT 3	Develop an allotments and community gardens strategy for Louth County Council that includes learnings from the Louth Urban Food sanctuary project.

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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.
Mayo County Council	14	Implement the Biodiversity plan for County Mayo- incl. carbon sequestration, flood alleviation via nature-based solutions approach, identification and support for eco-system services, invasive species management, pesticide and herbicide reduction, green and blue infrastructure, integrating biodiversity considerations to new and existing development, wildlife corridors identification and enhancement. The implementation of the Biodiversity Plan will be underpinned by ecological surveys and assessments to ensure interventions are appropriate to the receiving environment.
Mayo County Council	25	Work with higher education institutions in the region and utilise their expertise in research and education programmes of mutual interest in particular around regenerative agriculture, Just Transition collaboration, climate adaption and land use and nature-based solutions as well as sectoral adaptation and mitigation research.
Meath County Council	NE 10	Support the creation of community gardens through partnership with local communities and external agencies.
Meath County Council	SR 5	Support locally produced sustainable food products and promote sustainable farm practices.
Monaghan County Council	NEGI 10	Campaigns to promote locally produced and organic food and beverage produce highlighting the carbon intensity and food miles of imported food vs. locally produced food.
Monaghan County Council	NEGI 11	Promote specific talks or workshops for farmers on High Nature Value farming practices to enable practical skills to be shared.
Monaghan County Council	NEGI 12	Explore opportunities for deeper engagement with the Agriculture Sector on Environmental and Climate issues and potential local interventions to protect and/or improve water quality, biodiversity, and other environmental assets.
Monaghan County Council	CRT 6	Develop community allotment strategy.
Monaghan County Council	SRM 3	Support the development of biomethane potential within the county to generate sustainable energy and reduce the impact of organic manures on the environment. Whilst also advocating and exerting influence to ensure anaerobic digestion related development and activities promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
Monaghan County Council	SRM 13	Ensure enforcement of Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) including waste, water, and air.
Offaly County Council	NE 4.1.5	Develop integrated programme to address Invasive Alien Species through education and/or selected actions as appropriate. This programme 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.
Offaly County Council	C 5.2.7	Engage with and support local IFA, expert, advisors and farmers and the appointed Offaly Teagasc adviser on their climate action signpost programme. Engage with these stakeholders to develop a platform for ongoing periodical consultation



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Roscommon County Council	NEGI 6	Engage with external stakeholders, including semi-state bodies, communities, NGOs and private developers to realise renewable energy ambitions and agricultural emissions reductions set out at national, regional and local level, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote Climate Action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
Roscommon County Council	NEGI 8	Implement the tree management strategy with a focus on native trees to promote enhanced canopy cover within the County including tree protection measures and planting programmes in Local Authority property. Roll out internal training programmes for relevant council staff and contractors and externally for communities, landowners and potential developers on appropriate planting and maintenance for canopy preservation and biodiversity enhancement. Investigate potential system to monitor planting regimes.
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 3	Engage with Teagasc and the agricultural community on the potential for emissions reduction, biodiversity enhancement and environmental pollution prevention in conjunction with existing agri-environmental schemes and through the application of innovative technologies in waste management and renewable energy generation
Sligo County Council	35	Develop a register of Council owned properties; that may potentially be used for Nature based solutions, including community gardens and allotments, and the establishment of a native tree planting programme, that targets planting in appropriate place with appropriate planting mixes.
South Dublin County Council	N 11	Maintain and expand allotments for local food production across the County, in accordance with SDCC's Allotments Policy.
South Dublin County Council	N 12	Support the provision of Community Gardens for local food production across the County, in partnership with Community Centres, Schools and other local groups.
South Dublin County Council	CE 17	Engage with the agricultural community to understand how SDCC can support resilience efforts and sustainable farming practices.
Tipperary County Council	61	Prepare a guidance document and training on the importance of, quality rating and sustainable management of the hedgerows of Tipperary, for Council staff and external stakeholders including farmers/landowners.
Tipperary County Council	98	Facilitate, advocate for and support the agriculture sector in meeting their own emissions reductions targets and in achieving energy in agriculture, farm diversification and smart climate land-use for example, opportunities around the bio-economy.
Waterford City & County Council	3.1	Develop a County Biodiversity Plan with climate action as a cross-cutting theme/goal. Use the County Biodiversity Plan as a vehicle to highlight a range of biodiversity opportunities that can be taken up at farm level with particular emphasis on the new ECO scheme. Highlight schemes for biodiversity opportunities available to farmers
Waterford City & County Council	3.7	Map green infrastructure (GI) – identify wildlife corridors, conservation and restoration spaces. Under the County Development Plan a Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy is being developed.

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Waterford City & County Council	3.8	Complete county habitat and ecosystem service surveys with a focus on carbon sinks and stores and identify sites suitable for restoration (wetlands, woodlands, sand dunes, saltmarsh and sea grass beds). Identify funding streams to carry out improvement works and put in place a wetlands recovery programme
Waterford City & County Council	3.11	Prepare a guidance document and training on the importance of, quality rating and sustainable management of the hedgerows and riparian areas, for Council staff and external stakeholders including farmers/landowners.
Waterford City & County Council	3.2	Support the development of a nature corridor across a number of rural communities in Waterford
Waterford City & County Council	3.22	Signpost farms towards the Teagasc emissions reduction programme on Farm Inspection Visits and collaborate with the Comeragh Uplands EIP project
Waterford City & County Council	3.23	Deliver a number of water protection projects focused on preventing nitrate runoff from farms. Produce a Climate Action Toolkit for farmers in partnership with Teagasc that can be shared on farm visits
Waterford City & County Council	3.24	Investigate the possibility of using seaweed at the coast to reduce the amount of nitrates going near Seagrass plantations
Waterford City & County Council	3.26	Support and inform a climate-proofing programme for natural water resources to manage flooding at the catchment level. Through advising the farming community and running information campaigns.
Waterford City & County Council	4.13	Increase in number of community gardens & rewilding projects within community greens or other spaces that are owned/maintained by the Council
Waterford City & County Council	4.23	Campaign to promote locally produced and organic food, include training in appropriate sales and marketing for farmers and sellers to local markets. Highlighting the work of GIY and similar organisations
Waterford City & County Council	4.24	Prepare feasibility study to facilitate a pilot Anaerobic Digester project in conjunction with other stakeholders (farmers, agri-business and others)
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	4.11	Continue to encourage and support the local production and distribution of food and natural produce (building on food circle initiatives) by engaging with and facilitating farmers markets, local food trails, community gardens, allotments and urban orchards at suitable locations around Westmeath.
Wexford County Council	NEGI 17	Ensure the protection and quality of all surface, ground and coastal waters in County Wexford by continuing to implement the National Agricultural Inspection Plan while ensuring sustainable transport modes are used to travel to and from inspection sites, where feasible.
Wexford County Council	NEGI 19	Liaise & collaborate with Teagasc and other advisors to influence and advocate towards more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices including signpost programmes and Forestry Schemes.
Wexford County Council	NEGI 20	Increase awareness on the technologies available and promote the change in fertiliser type & technique within County Wexford that aid reduction in carbon emissions on farms

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Wexford County Council	NEGI 21	Implement a collaboration project with a series of "champion farmer" events around the county to showcase what agriculture and forestry is doing for climate change, water quality and biodiversity
Wexford County Council	NEGI 22	Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.
Wexford County Council	NEGI 23	Provide expert advice on biodiversity and encourage native planting on farmland within County Wexford
Wexford County Council	CRT 5	Engage with communities and residents' association about the part they can play to combat climate change in their shared & individual gardens/allotments to support local food/vegetable production.
Wicklow County Council	20 NEGI	Develop a hedgerow plan for the county with actions to map, protect and develop hedgerows, having due regard to hedgerow area conservation requirements and the need to avoid habitat fragmentation.
Wicklow County Council	21 NEGI	Develop an integrated programme to address invasive alien species through education and with recording and eradication programmes in the public realm. This programme 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.
Wicklow County Council	11 CRT	Support community groups in their efforts to develop communal gardens and allotments.
Wicklow County Council	23 CRT	Work with the Healthy Food Made Easy Programme and Community Food Initiative.
Wicklow County Council	5 SRM	Promote uptake of energy performance measures in business and agricultural sectors through the promotion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEAI programmes and Energy Audits</li> <li>• support scheme for renewable heat</li> <li>• micro and small-scale renewable energy generation</li> <li>• anaerobic digestion</li> <li>• energy efficient and heating control technology.</li> </ul> Whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported renewable energy development does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
Wicklow County Council	10 SRM	Promote sustainability in the tourism, food and the hospitality sector.
Wicklow County Council	11 SRM	Facilitate development of local markets for food producers in the county encouraging sustainable practice in the sector.
Wicklow County Council	12 SRM	Liaise with Signpost, ACRES, TAMS and Farming for Nature Schemes to support climate action in the agricultural sector. Help to promote farms to become demonstration farms and highlight the work being done in Wicklow to decarbonize agriculture and manage land using best practice for sustainability, development planning and environmental protection and enhancement.

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Table 2: DZ actions that relate to the Agriculture and Food sector

Local Authority	Action no	Action
Cavan County Council	DZ-N8	Support the transition of the agricultural sector to more sustainable farming techniques through programmes such as Teagasc's Signpost programme
Clare County Council	DZ-BE1	Support the development of a feasibility study for an anaerobic digestion system to produce biogas and organic fertiliser
Clare County Council	DZ-BE6	Advance the installation of private and community solar PV systems on agriculture, residential, commercial and/or public locations
Clare County Council	DZ-C1	Support the development of local food production and farm enterprises in the DZ (e.g. Loop Head Farm to Fork)
Clare County Council	DZ-C5	Support through promotion an increase in the number of farmers in the DZ partaking in the Teagasc Signpost Programme.
Clare County Council	DZ-N1	Support innovative projects and/or research that advance regenerative farming (i.e., Hemp4Soil or similar).
Galway City Council	DZ 43	Collaborate with schools, and/ or community groups in the DZ to establish a community garden for urban food growth.
Galway County Council	DZ 1.5	Improve understanding of emissions related to agriculture and LULUCF and update baseline emissions assessment. (Note: Some of the emissions data related to agriculture and LULUCF in the Decarbonisation Zone is based on national averages. The actual emissions may lower due to the nature of farming practices in this region).
Kildare County Council	3.3	Explore the feasibility of the development of allotments and community gardens in Maynooth to support sustainable food production.
Kildare County Council	3.4	Promote and support a flagship farmers market for local growers of sustainable products.
Kildare County Council	3.6	Support carbon sequestration through strategic planting of native species for all new developments, underutilised lands or farms to promote biodiversity gain within Maynooth.
Kildare County Council	3.9	Support the agriculture sector in diversifying to sustainable agriculture practices such as the Signpost Programme as well as agritourism and agroforestry practices.
Laois County Council	2.6	Raise awareness about the "A Town in a Garden" project to engage the community.
Laois County Council	4.12	Continue to support Farmers Market and local food producers ensuring their sustainable growth and contribution to our eco-friendly objectives.
Leitrim County Council	DZNGI7	Pilot a community composting project to manage food waste in the DZ.

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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 3	Define the climate and biodiversity challenge for the Mayo Decarbonising Zone in terms of sectoral and land use emissions to support co-creation by all stakeholders of a clear road map to meet emissions and nature restoration targets
Mayo County Council	DZ 9	Focused measures to support social economic anchor institutions i.e., education, social care, social enterprises, regenerative tourism, and farming
Mayo County Council	DZ 23	Establish a farming forum to advocate and represent the landowners and to develop actions/ schemes that will support the landowners, community, and environment. Participation is voluntary and landowners can opt out at any stage
Mayo County Council	DZ 24	Support local food growing and dining to support local economy and production that reduces food miles. Increase education and awareness about local food and means to preserve produce
Mayo County Council	DZ 35	Re-establishing dry stone walls as a farm landscape feature and support training and capacity building of these skills within the community
Monaghan County Council	DZ NGL.7	Support the transition of the agricultural sector to more sustainable farming techniques through programmes such as Teagasc's Signpost programme.
Roscommon County Council	DZ18	Investigate potential collaboration with agricultural operators within the DZ on the potential to monitor and reduce GHG emissions in collaboration with advisory agencies and 3rd level institutions.
Waterford City & County Council	DZ 2.12	Reduce use of fertilizers by increased use of locally produced compost and local allotment growing

**Oifig Réigiúnach um  
Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide  
Rialtas Áitiúil**

Climate Action  
Regional Offices  
Local Government

