



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

**Department of the Environment, Climate and
Communications (DECC)
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 (CARO) 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 **Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)**.

Please note that this is a high-level assessment performed by the CAROs to inform DECC 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. Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) Actions:

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

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- **68** of all 3282 actions relate to DECC.
- these are contained in **17** 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:

- **4** of the total DZ actions relate to DECC.
- These are contained in **2** 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 DECC as a stakeholder across local authorities.

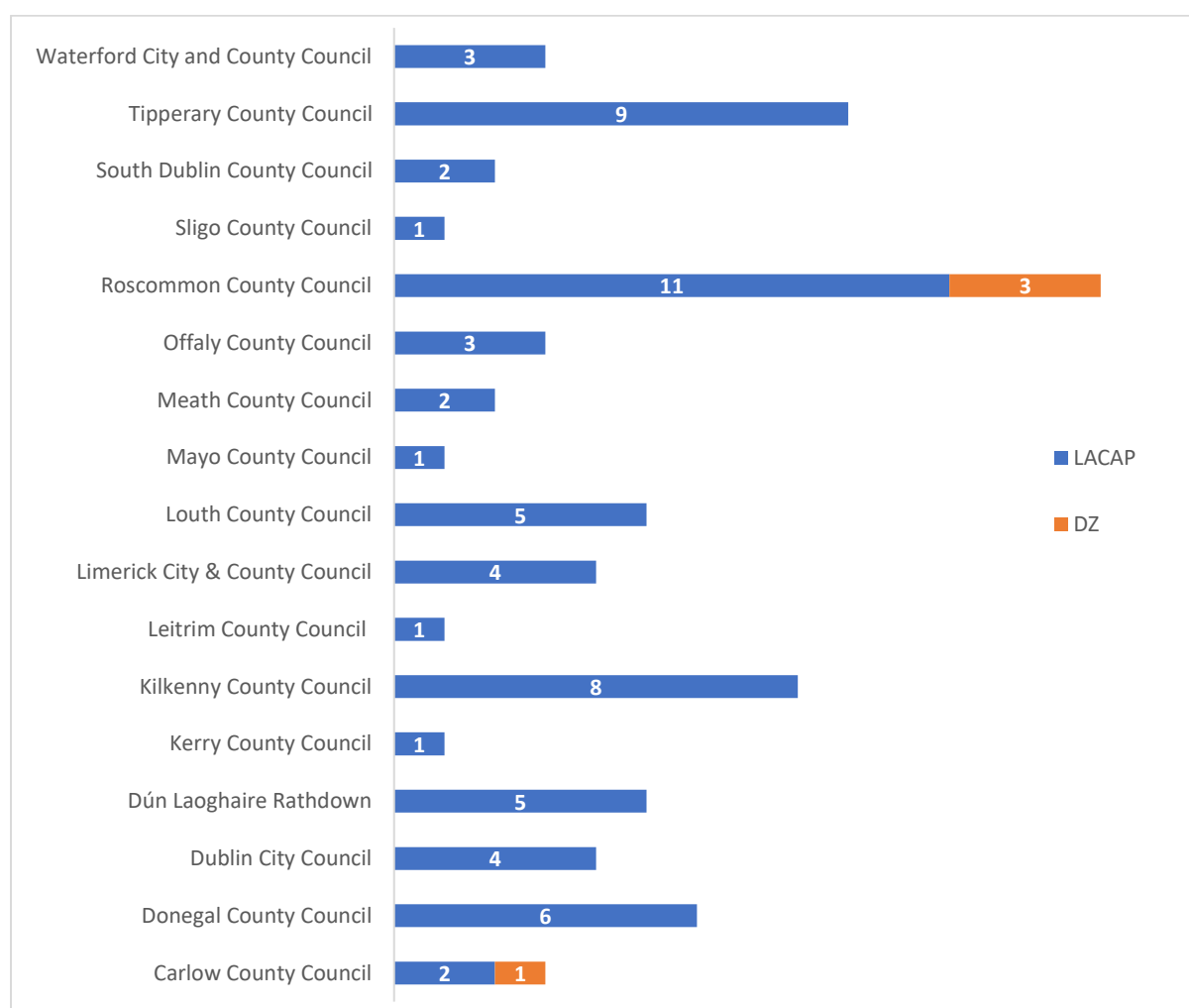


Figure 1: Breakdown of DECC stakeholder actions according to Local Authority LACAP and DZ

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 DECC as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 41% of the total number of LACAP actions that cite DECC as a stakeholder address both mitigation and adaptation while 44% are specifically mitigation actions and 15% specifically relate to adaptation.

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of DZ actions that cite DECC as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 100% of all DZ actions that cite DECC as a stakeholder are combined actions that address both mitigation and adaptation.

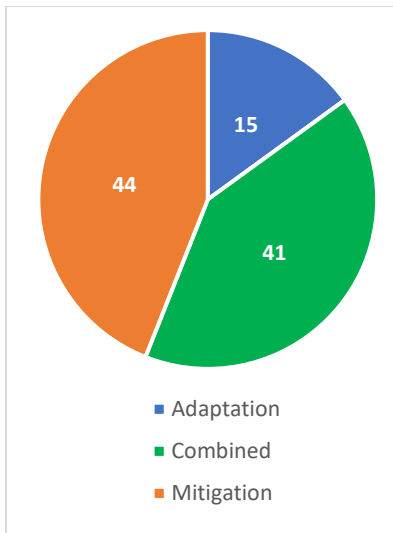


Figure 2: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of LACAP DECC stakeholder actions

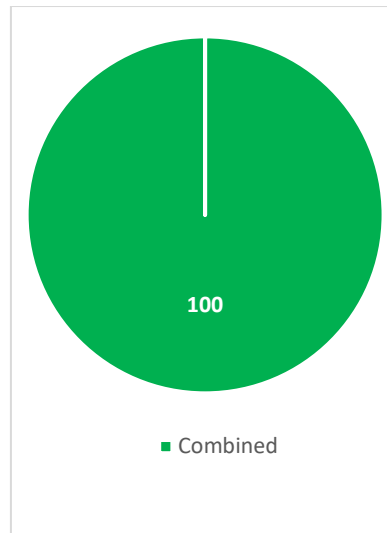


Figure 3: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of DZ DECC stakeholder actions

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 DECC as a stakeholder according to Tier 1 Category with actions classified into 9 of the possible 11 categories.

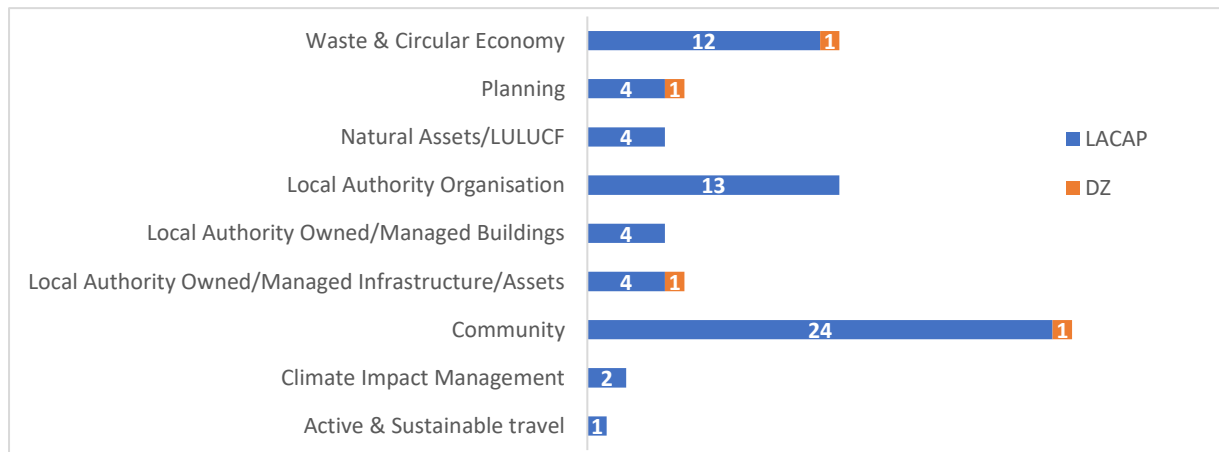


Figure 4: Tier 1 classification of LACAP and DZ DECC stakeholder actions

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It is apparent that a significant majority of all LACAP and DZ actions that cite DECC as a stakeholder are associated with community, with smaller numbers associated with Waste and the circular economy and Local Authority organisation. The types of actions that are listed under each of these categories are as follows:

Community:

- Community Climate Action Fund.
- GAA Green Clubs.
- Tidy Towns.
- Decarbonising zones.
- Community engagement.

Waste and the Circular Economy:

- Compliance with and enforcement of legislation in relation to waste.
- Implementation of Waste Management Plan.
- Promotion and awareness raising.

Local Authority Organisation:

- Achieve energy efficiency and emissions targets.
- Monitoring and reporting.
- SDGs.
- Grant administration.

All 68 LACAP and 4 DZ actions that cite DECC as a stakeholder are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

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Table 1: LACAP actions that cite DECC as a Stakeholder

Local Authority	Action no	Action
Carlow County Council	G 1.2	Resource and fund dedicated Climate Action Staff to facilitate adaptation against and mitigate for the effects of Climate Change, to include a Climate Co-Ordinator, Climate Action Officer and a Climate Community Officer.
Carlow County Council	C 1.2	Implement the Community Climate Action Fund to engage communities in localised Climate Action Projects
Donegal County Council	GL 1.1	Reduce DCC's own carbon emissions by 51% by 2030, compared with a baseline of 2018.
Donegal County Council	GL 1.2	Improve DCC's own energy efficiency by 50% by 2030 compared with a baseline of 2009.
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.
Donegal County Council	GL 1.6	Develop a Climate Action Checklist for all DCC Climate Actions and Monitor Progress on Implementation.
Donegal County Council	CR 1.2	Provide a point of contact to assist GAA Green Club Programme to implement projects that contribute to the objectives of a national climate initiative.
Donegal County Council	SR 3.4	Support the increase in water fountains to reduce single use plastic waste.
Dublin City Council	R 1.1	Flagship project: Lower Dominick Street
Dublin City Council	R 3.1	Dublin District Heating Project
Dublin City Council	C 4.1	Ringsend Decarbonisation Zone
Dublin City Council	C 4.2	Ballymun Decarbonisation Zone
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	R 1A	Ensure compliance with Solid Fuel Regulations through inspection and monitoring of solid fuel suppliers
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 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 (EMRWMPPO), The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other national bodies to promote waste prevention and circular economy related campaigns
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	C 1	Administer the Community Climate Action Fund

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Kerry County Council	3.3.8	Administration of the Community Climate Action Fund for Kerry.
Kilkenny County Council	1.1	Establish and resource a Climate Action Steering Committee comprising senior staff across all services, and a dedicated and resourced Climate Action Office in Kilkenny County Council
Kilkenny County Council	1.12	Review and update flood baseline data to inform Flood Relief Project Design
Kilkenny County Council	1.19	Respond to new priorities and programmes that emerge over the lifetime of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, having due regard to environmental sensitivities, biodiversity, European sites, human receptors, and the need to promote sustainable practices.
Kilkenny County Council	2.26	Investigate the feasibility of local authority led/supported alternative heating systems and fuels including District Heating, Geothermal and Bioenergy.
Kilkenny County Council	4.1	Deliver the Community Climate Action Fund. Ensure projects supported by this action are delivered in a manner that has due regard to: * All relevant environmental sensitivities (e.g., heritage, biodiversity, European site related sensitivities), and; * Opportunities to promote climate action co-benefits, where possible (e.g., through the use of nature-based solutions or sustainable drainage systems).
Kilkenny County Council	4.2	Support communities to deliver local climate and sustainability actions, through grant schemes and programmes such as Sustainable Energy Communities, Tidy Towns, GAA Green Clubs, Green Schools and Heritage in Schools, Heritage Week, Heritage Grants, National Biodiversity Week, Creative Ireland and Cruinnui na nOg
Kilkenny County Council	4.13	Provide information and advice to communities, businesses and other stakeholders to support local climate action, via Council networks
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, minimization and recycling.
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.
Limerick City & County Council	B 5	Carry out a feasibility study on the introduction of a district heating network in Limerick City.
Limerick City & County Council	B 6	Investigate the establishment of a sustainable investment fund to support the retrofitting of historic buildings across Limerick.
Limerick City & County Council	C 8	Develop Group-based programmes and activities to build social and environmental inclusion.
Limerick City & County Council	C 11	Continue to deliver on the Community Climate Action Fund.

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Louth County Council	BEI3	Fully Deliver the National Sustainable Mobility Policy's Pathfinder projects for Dundalk and Drogheda having due regard to heritage protection requirements.
Louth County Council	BEI 4	Deliver additional active travel projects within the county to further develop walking and cycling as an alternative to private car use. Ensure supported active travel development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.
Louth County Council	NEGI 4	Enact all local authority relevant actions in Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2027
Louth County Council	CRT 1	Access best practice information from the EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change, to strengthen Louth County Council's response to extreme weather events
Louth County Council	SRM 7	Support local level renewable energy and micro generation projects within county Louth and cooperate with neighbouring regions where opportunities are identified. Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - project accordance with planning and environmental protection requirements
Mayo County Council	18	Administer Community Climate Action Fund
Meath County Council	GL 3	Prepare a Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Guidance Document to support the inclusion of the global goals in all plans, strategies and grant programmes published by the LA.
Meath County Council	CRT 13	Administer and support Strand 1 & 1A of Community Climate Action Programme to deliver selected Climate Action projects.
Offaly County Council	S 6.1.1	Monitor & enforce waste regulations through working with WERLA
Offaly County Council	S 6.1.3	Provide solar compaction bins where possible
Offaly County Council	S 6.1.8	Promote litter/waste awareness initiatives in accordance with the Councils Litter Management Plan 2022-2024 and the National Waste Management Plan
Roscommon County Council	GL2	Engage with the existing range of community capacity building supports to progress Climate Action initiatives in a consolidated way, ensure that stakeholders can engage with support service providers, funding streams and tailored advice to develop, mobilise and deliver projects
Roscommon County Council	BET12	Implement urban place making initiatives, including the reuse and regeneration of vacant, underused and derelict sites in the urban areas throughout the county in accordance with the CDP, LAPs and emerging Town Centre First policy promoting compact urban growth and vibrancy, facilitating modal shift and creating destination assets to focus benefits of regenerative tourism and protect amenity and heritage assets, having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European Sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
Roscommon County Council	NEGI 1	Develop an RCC Green Infrastructure Strategy incorporating policies and programmes across all sections in support of biodiversity and heritage protection and enhancement and associated Climate Action benefits.

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Roscommon County Council	NEGI 2	Establish holistic linkages between existing, planned and proposed amenity infrastructure and heritage assets within the county to enhance archaeological protection, biodiversity (wildlife corridors), flood resilience (ecosystem services) and increase public awareness (immersion in nature/heritage), whilst promoting the adoption nature-based solutions and SUDs as appropriate, avoidance of habitat fragmentation, and adherence to environmental protection requirements
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	NEGI 10	Implement the sustainable management practices for public open spaces report and guidelines in local authority operations with the aim of advocating for the elimination and avoidance of glyphosate-based- products and promote education and awareness on the use of herbicides and pesticides to the public and local communities to protect biodiversity and water quality. Training regarding herbicides and pesticides promotes use that does not cause significant effects on the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European Sites Highlight danger of invasive species and develop internal and external educational resources on prevention and biodiversity-aware eradication. Ensure that the invasive species educational resource is developed by a competent ecology team.
Roscommon County Council	CRT 3	Engage with the business community to progress Climate Action initiatives
Roscommon County Council	CRT 6	Collate and act as a repository for evidence-based climate change forecasts and predictions at local level. Assess new findings and incorporate associated best practice into all operational areas
Roscommon County Council	CRT 7	Identify, engage with and support communities most affected by the just transition process in Roscommon, including those employed in the former peat-based electricity generation and processing and associated peat related industry which has now ceased.
Roscommon County Council	CRT 8	Identify communities and groups with the potential to be affected by the transition to a low-carbon society as part of overarching national and sectoral policy implementation, including agricultural communities and those employed in associated industries, and including individuals and communities vulnerable to energy poverty. Identify and investigate potential opportunities associated with just transition, including locally based carbon offset initiatives
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
Sligo County Council	28	Deliver the Community Climate Action Fund, and the promotion of other related funding streams, including the Creative Climate Action Fund, and ensure full use of available resources.
South Dublin County Council	CE 7	Engage with communities and residents across the County, through local pop-up awareness raising events, on home energy upgrades, funding and other supports available.
South Dublin County Council	CE 21	Deliver the Community Climate Action Fund.

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Tipperary County Council	1	Actively co-ordinate and implement this Strategic Goal by maintaining a governance structure for climate action comprising of a dedicated Climate Action Director of Services, a Steering Group at Senior Management level and a Climate Action Team comprising senior staff across all services.
Tipperary County Council	41	Implement an annual housing retrofit programme for local authority housing stock in accordance with funding programmes such as the National Retrofit Plan (DECC) and other relevant programmes.
Tipperary County Council	42	Identify a pipeline of proposed housing retrofit projects to be delivered annually.
Tipperary County Council	43	All new Homes and Extensions built by the Local Authority to be to NZEB standard in line with Part L of the Building regulations.
Tipperary County Council	44	The Council will seek to show leadership by the design and construction of Net-Zero Homes as part of their building programmes, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as visual amenity and quality, local human receptors, Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology, and amenity value.
Tipperary County Council	45	Implement and promote across Council networks, national building refurbishment and vacancy programmes for private sector housing, for example Croí Cónaithe scheme. Such projects will ensure that they will not actively encourage a modal shift toward private car use and will have regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species and European sites.
Tipperary County Council	51	Advocate for both proactive national planning policy and fit for purpose national grid infrastructure in Tipperary that will support the transition to renewable energy and to ensure that local authority planning policy is aligned with national policy change and updates as they relate to national and regional renewable energy/electricity targets, guidance and support schemes.
Tipperary County Council	66	Identify ways to support grant administrators in their role as influencers of climate action/sustainability through administration of grants across council services.
Tipperary County Council	90	To deliver an exemplar 'Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy' as the anchor and catalyst for the redevelopment of Martyr's Road Regeneration Quarter, located in Nenagh Town Centre.
Waterford City & County Council	4.1	Develop an engagement/education plan for businesses on the circular economy i.e. how to better design, reuse and remake
Waterford City & County Council	4.16	Deliver the Community Climate Action Fund overseeing the delivery of up to 30 climate action projects across the county
Waterford City & County Council	4.17	Deliver a Carbon Neutral Waterford Business programme with businesses across the County

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Table 2: DZ actions that cite DECC as a Stakeholder

Local Authority	Action no.	Action
Carlow County Council	DZ1.11	Advance Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects to achieve the Carlow 2040 plan; having due regard to environmental sensitivities, the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.
Roscommon County Council	DZ 15	RCC will progress the development of a waste management strategy for the DZ to facilitate understanding of waste streams within the DZ, supporting effective management at source rather than at end of life.
Roscommon County Council	DZ 16	Initiate a study on the potential for alternative heat sources, including geothermal potential, within the Roscommon Town DZ area for residential, commercial, community and public sector/institutional application
Roscommon County Council	DZ 17	Develop a register of interested homeowners via EOI to facilitate economies of scale for retrofit projects to promote group access to discounts, green finance and available supports within the DZ area.

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