



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

The Heritage Council 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 **Heritage Council**.

*Please note that this is a high-level assessment performed by the CAROs to inform the **Heritage Council** 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. Heritage Council Actions:

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

- **50** of all 3282 actions relate to the Heritage Council.

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- these are contained in **14** 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:

- **2** of the total DZ actions relate to the Heritage Council.
- These are contained in **1** 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 Heritage Council as a stakeholder across local authorities.

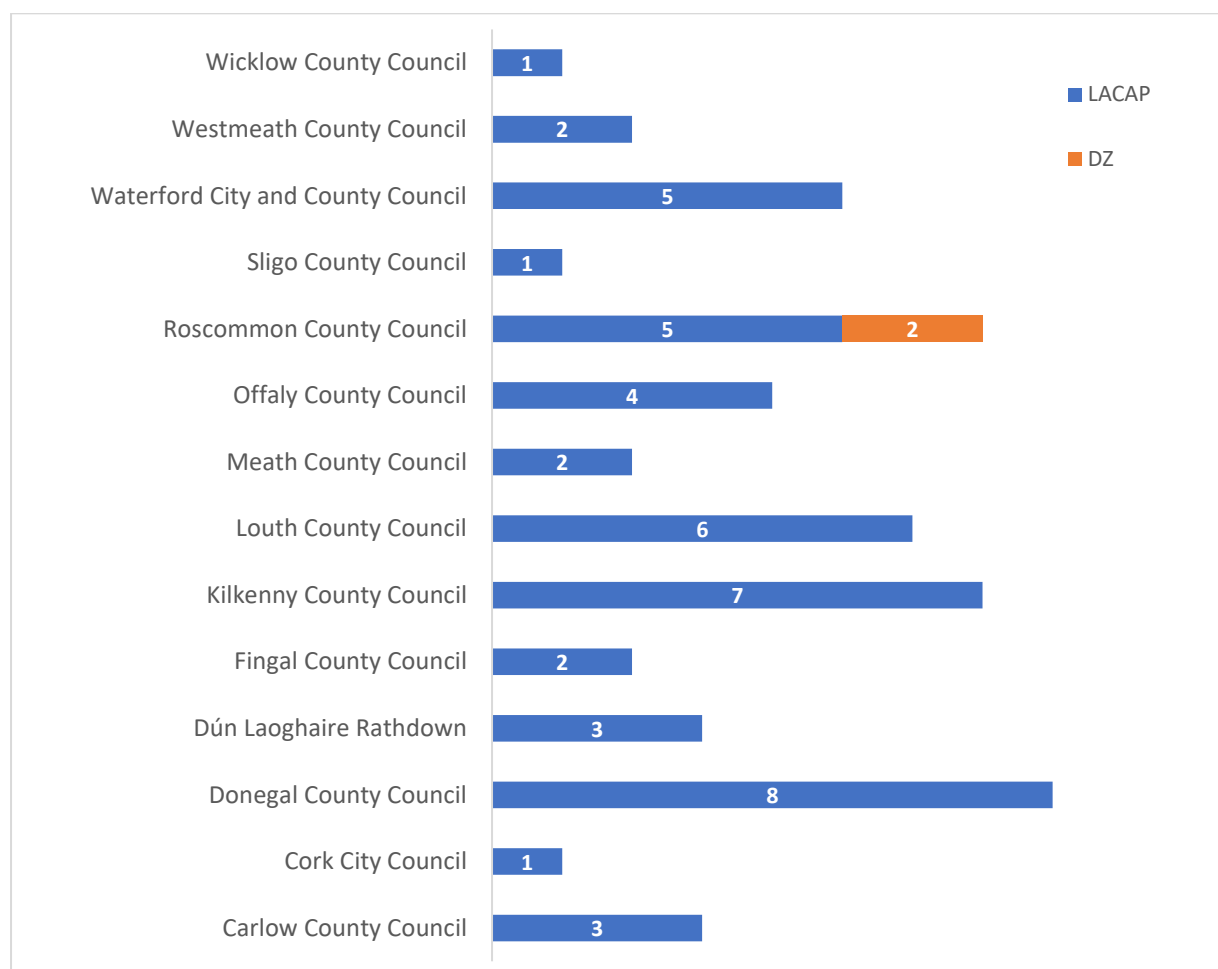


Figure 1: Breakdown of Heritage Council stakeholder actions according to Local Authority LACAP and DZ

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 Heritage Council as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 42% of the total number of LACAP actions that cite the Heritage Council as a stakeholder address both mitigation and adaptation while 32% are specifically mitigation actions and 26% specifically relate to adaptation.

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of DZ actions that cite the Heritage Council as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. As outlined earlier, the Heritage Council was listed as a stakeholder in 2 DZ actions and both of these actions were categorised as combined actions that address both climate mitigation and adaptation.

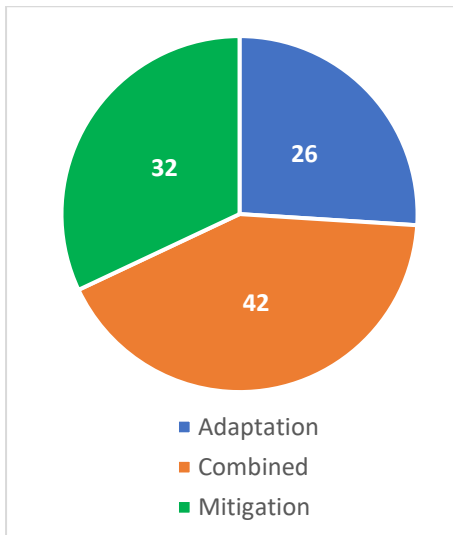


Figure 2: Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of LACAP Heritage Council stakeholder actions

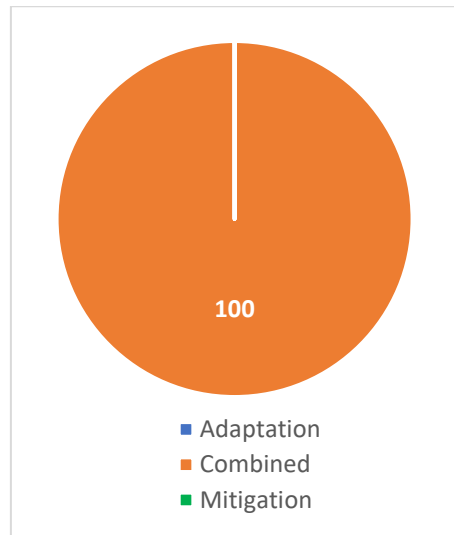


Figure 3: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of DZ Heritage Council stakeholder actions

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 Heritage Council as a stakeholder according to Tier 1 Category with actions classified into 6 of the possible 11 categories.

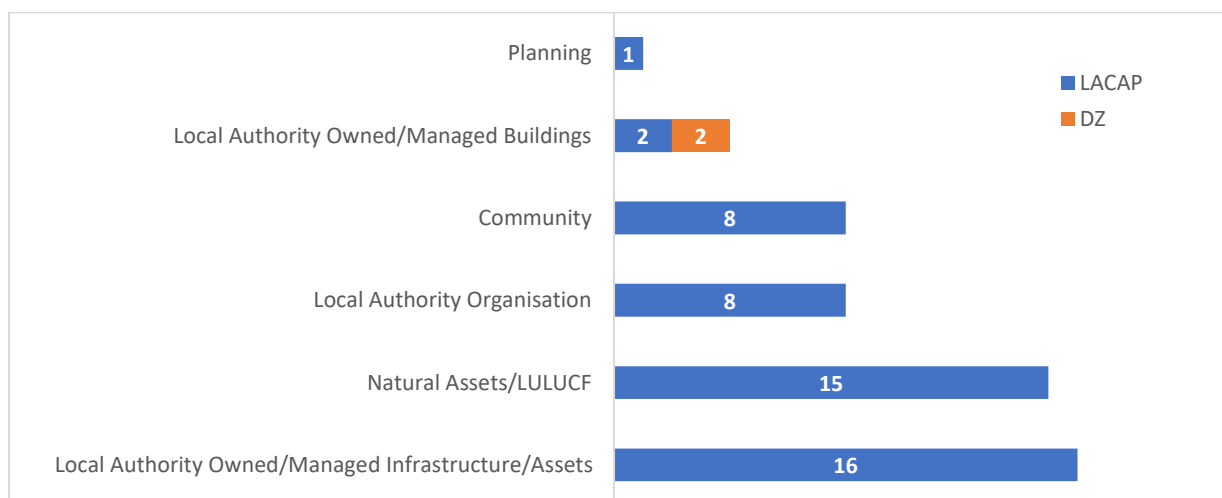


Figure 4: Tier 1 classification of LACAP and DZ Heritage Council stakeholder actions

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

Local authority owned/managed infrastructure/assets:

- Risk assessment of infrastructure and heritage assets at risk.
- Implement Heritage Plan.
- Audit land for biodiversity potential.
- Citizen Science initiatives to monitor climate change impacts on heritage assets.

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

- Heritage and Biodiversity plan development and implementation.
- Events to promote biodiversity.
- Wetland action planning.
- Green Infrastructure planning.
- Tree strategy development and implementation.

Local Authority Organisation:

- Employment of Biodiversity Officer.
- Implementation of local and national policy.
- Training of staff in biodiversity and building conservation.
- Awareness raising, capacity building, public engagement.
- Climate proof heritage funding.

Community:

- Events to support national initiatives (e.g. National Heritage Week, National Biodiversity Week).
- Education and awareness raising.
- Work with communities to identify, map and record local cultural heritage sites / areas/ traditions/ practises where there is a risk of loss due to climate change.

All 50 LACAP and 2 DZ actions that cite the Heritage Council as a stakeholder are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: LACAP actions that cite the Heritage Council as a Stakeholder

Local Authority	Action no	Action
Carlow County Council	NE 1.1	Appoint a Biodiversity Officer for Carlow County Council and implement actions contained in the County Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2025
Carlow County Council	NE 1.6	Develop and implement a Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of built natural and cultural heritage in County Carlow having regard to increasing challenges stemming from climate change.
Carlow County Council	NE 1.7	Undertake a planned programme of risk assessments of the Heritage and Cultural Assets under the remit of Carlow County Council to assess the vulnerability and the risk to the historical environment from the impacts of climate change and to help build resilience to these important assets.
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 2.4	Liaise with national organisations to devise and deliver accredited training for local authority staff on biodiversity and traditional building conservation.
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	BE 6.1	Support national and regional initiatives to build climate resilience of architectural and archaeological heritage in public and private ownership e.g. the Community Monuments Fund, Historic Towns Initiative, Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund.
Donegal County Council	BE 6.2	Support national and regional initiatives to develop projects to upgrade the climate resilience of traditional buildings and to promote use/adaptive reuse of historic structures.
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 1.5	Support national and regional initiatives to strengthen ecological expertise in the Council.
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.
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	EB 26	To improve climate resilience and energy performance of architectural and archaeological heritage in public and private ownership through heritage funding schemes; subject to appropriate protection and restoration considerations
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	C 15	To increase the number of heritage events with a climate theme

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Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	C 18	Organise activities and events to promote biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services
Fingal County Council	F 26	Use the findings of the Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Risk Assessment to prioritise and pilot adaptive and palliative measures for heritage assets in Council ownership
Fingal County Council	F 27	Support and develop citizen science projects such as Fingal X Heritage as a means of monitoring climate change impacts on Fingal's heritage assets and raising public awareness
Kilkenny County Council	2.27	To develop a policy on Disaster Risk Management and undertake a Climate Risk Assessment of local authority owned heritage assets
Kilkenny County Council	2.28	Prioritise, facilitate and raise awareness about the value of retaining embodied carbon in developments
Kilkenny County Council	2.29	Ensure best practice in energy efficiency retrofitting of traditional/heritage buildings having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.
Kilkenny County Council	3.7	Implement Nature-based Solutions and biodiversity enhancement in new Kilkenny County Council developments
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	4.3	Work with communities to identify, map and record local cultural heritage sites / areas/ traditions/ practices where loss due to climate change is likely/inevitable
Kilkenny County Council	4.8	Deliver an educational and awareness programme, through the Library Service, on climate action, sustainability, biodiversity and the circular economy, by providing workshops, information clinics, citizen science kits, home energy kits, books, digital resources, educational programmes, and events for festivals/themes (e.g. Science Week, Sustainable Development Goals Week etc)
Louth County Council	BEI 10	Climate Impact Risk Assessment on Louth County Council owned heritage sites
Louth County Council	NEGI 1	Support the full delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth 2021 – 2026
Louth County Council	NEGI 2	Develop a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth in line with the new national Biodiversity plan in accordance to the guidelines set out by the Heritage Council. This plan shall have a focus on use/promotion of native species.
Louth County Council	NEGI 4	Enact all local authority relevant actions in Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2027

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Louth County Council	NEGI 7	Set up and run a Biodiversity and Heritage forum as per the requirements of the Heritage Council to deliver feedback into local authority climate action.
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.
Meath County Council	NE 8	Undertake climate risk assessment of local authority owned heritage assets (natural, built and cultural). Carry out regular programme of inspection, maintenance and phased conservation works to develop climate resilience.
Meath County Council	CRT 2	Expand Trim Air Quality Project to other Decarbonising Zones.
Offaly County Council	BE 2.3.2	Build climate resilience and improve energy performance of architectural and archaeological heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as BHIS, HSF, HTI, IWTN and Community Monuments Fund.
Offaly County Council	NE 4.1.1	Develop and implement a OCC Plan to record, conserve and raise awareness of all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage in the County. Ensure actions of each plan complement each other.
Offaly County Council	NE 4.1.9	Increase climate themed events for national events such as National Heritage Week and National Biodiversity Week.
Offaly County Council	NE 4.2.8	Conduct audit of all local authority archives and collections. Carry out risk assessments and ensure disaster management plans completed and actioned with targets to fit local circumstances. For archives and collections in private ownership, provide support and training as required for nationally and internationally important collections, in collaboration with collection owners
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.
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 4	Promote heritage, biodiversity and Climate Action awareness in the management and maintenance of Local Authority assets, landbank and properties, compile an inventory of heritage assets within Local Authority ownership and develop conservation/risk management plans as appropriate, including energy efficiency measures
Roscommon County Council	NEGI 7	Establish and coordinate links with relevant state departments, semi-state bodies and advisory agencies in support of the development, application and funding of Climate Action innovations in operations, service delivery and infrastructural provision (including roads programme) at policy/programme development stage and through targeted education and training programmes in the areas of planning, H&S, roads, regeneration and environment, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure projects promote Climate Action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.

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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.
Sligo County Council	34	Identify & register heritage sites that are at risk from climate related weather events
Waterford City & County Council	2.54	Develop a County Heritage Plan with climate action as a cross-cutting theme/goal (Climate Proofed)
Waterford City & County Council	2.56	Ensure climate-proofing of heritage funding administered by WCCC, with an emphasis on improved energy performance along with the main goal of conservation of buildings.
Waterford City & County Council	2.59	Create a training programme for local authority staff in the use of traditional materials and skills e.g. lime and stonemasonry, to assist in conducting the conservation of traditional structures to increase their climate resilience and raise awareness of the importance of traditional skills and materials
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	4.3	Incorporating Climate Actions in Heritage Week, Biodiversity Week, Green Schools and Heritage in Schools (Run by Heritage Council)
Westmeath County Council	2.1	Carry out a risk assessment to identify the most climate vulnerable sites in public ownership to establish a baseline for heritage resources. Develop a programme for the protection of heritage and cultural assets in the county to the impacts of climate change.
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.
Wicklow County Council	15 NEGI	Review and update the Wicklow Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of the built, natural and cultural heritage, 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.

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Table 2: DZ actions that cite the Heritage Council as a Stakeholder

Local Authority	Action no.	Action
Roscommon County Council	DZ 11	Engage with owners/occupiers to enhance awareness to develop appropriate knowledge and skills required to enable energy efficiency improvements in heritage buildings, including specialists to help understand, specify and install appropriate retrofitting to reduce carbon footprint while retaining architectural and heritage integrity. Roll out tailored education scheme in this regard and engage with national funding streams for implementation, whilst promoting consideration of environmental protection requirements during such works.
Roscommon County Council	DZ 12	Engage with the Planning, Roads, Town Regeneration, Economic Development & Tourism and Capital Implementation Teams of RCC in the development, design and funding of town centre projects to reduce the need to travel in the urban area and to promote availability and uptake of public transport in support of a pedestrian-focussed town centre. Implement the design manual for Urban Roads and Streets in support of pedestrian priority zones and reduction of vehicular dominance in the town centre and residential areas. Promote the carrying out of development supported by this action in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European Sites and local air quality.

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