



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

Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) 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 **Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)**.

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

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

- **63** of all 3282 actions relate to LAWPRO.

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- 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:

- **12** of the total DZ actions relate to LAWPRO.
- These are contained in **6** 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 LAWPRO as a stakeholder across local authorities.

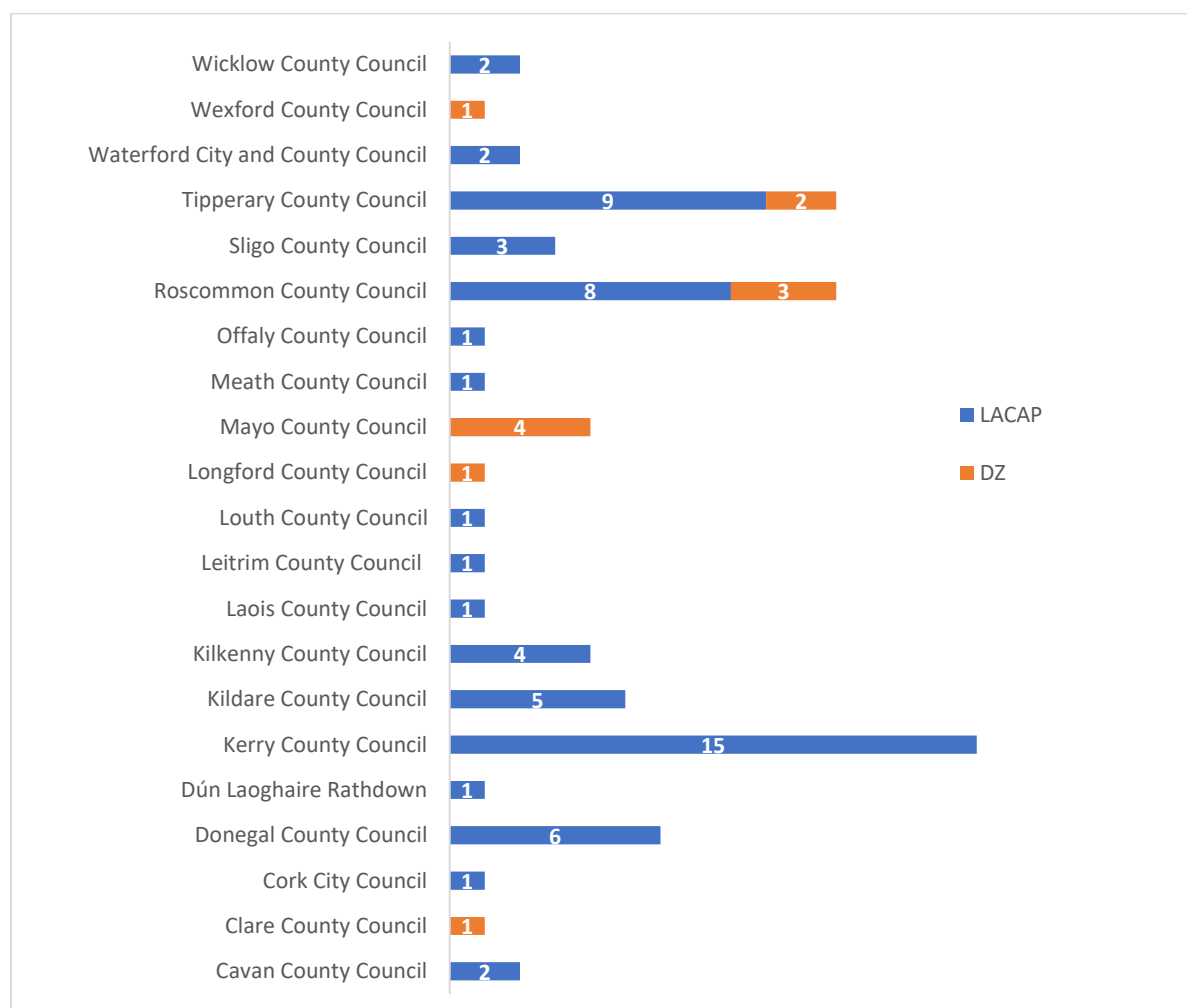


Figure 1: Breakdown of LAWPRO stakeholder actions according to Local Authority LACAP and DZ

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 LAWPRO as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 38% of the total number of LACAP actions that cite LAWPRO as a stakeholder address both mitigation and adaptation while 37% are specifically mitigation actions and 25% specifically relate to adaptation.

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of DZ actions that cite LAWPRO as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 67% of the total number of DZ actions that cite LAWPRO as a stakeholder address both mitigation and adaptation while 33% are specifically adaptation actions.

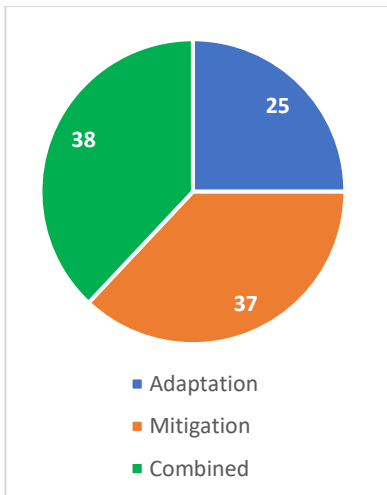


Figure 2: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of LACAP LAWPRO stakeholder actions

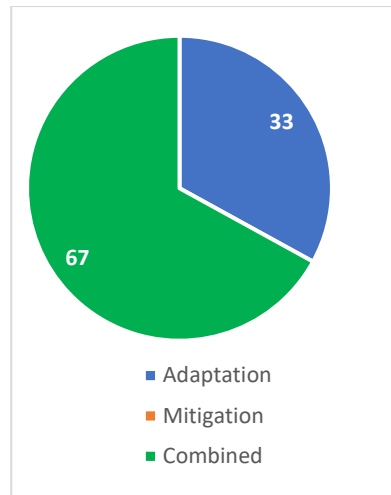


Figure 3: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of DZ LAWPRO stakeholder actions

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 LAWPRO as a stakeholder according to Tier 1 Category with actions classified into 7 of the possible 11 categories.

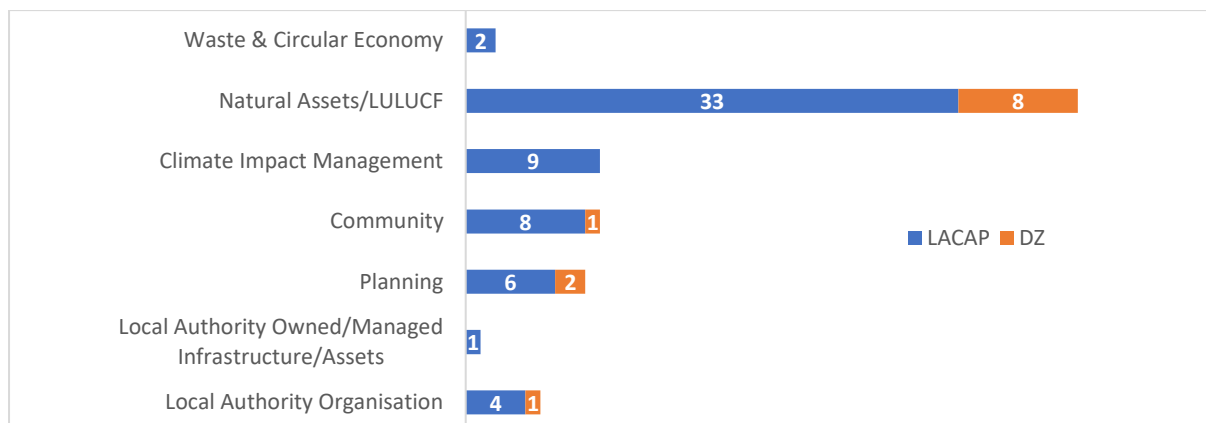


Figure 4: Tier 1 classification of LACAP and DZ LAWPRO stakeholder actions

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It is apparent that a significant majority of all LACAP and DZ actions that cite LAWPRO as a stakeholder are associated with natural assets/LULUCF, with smaller numbers associated with climate impact management, community, planning and local authority organisation. The types of actions that are listed under each of these categories are as follows:

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

- nature based solutions.
- invasive species strategy.
- protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
- county wetland surveys.
- identification of vulnerable water bodies.
- water protection projects.
- good agricultural practice.

Climate impact management:

- Flood risk assessment.
- Implementation of flood relief schemes.
- Sustainable urban drainage schemes.

Community:

- Education and awareness.
- Citizen science projects.

Local Authority Organisation:

- Research.
- Internal practices in relation to herbicide use and hedgerow management.

All 63 LACAP and 12 DZ actions that cite LAWPRO as a stakeholder are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: LACAP actions that cite LAWPRO as a stakeholder

Local Authority	Action No.	Action
Cavan County Council	G23	To input to a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change, and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive with a focus on follow-up and protective/remedial action.
Cavan County Council	N 8	Assist with a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, and cultural heritage related sensitivities.
Cork City Council	5.33	Identify water bodies that are especially vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.
Donegal County Council	NE 1.3	Support national and regional initiatives to conduct a county wetland survey and start to implement recommendations in terms of conservation and restoration of wetlands.
Donegal County Council	NE 1.6	Support national and regional initiatives in the rehabilitation of peatland as a carbon sink and provide habitat for biodiversity.
Donegal County Council	NE 4.1	Develop a protocol for the application of NBS to Council projects and provide training on same.
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.
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	C 17	Provide education and raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and water quality
Kerry County Council	1.6.4	Ensure the Planning Authority implements the OPW 's The Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines, having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value."
Kerry County Council	1.6.5	Ensure flood alleviation schemes listed in OPW flood management plans are facilitated and supported, having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value."

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Kerry County Council	2.1.6	Prepare a guidance document and training for Council staff on the importance of the sustainable management of hedgerows and riparian areas. Once complete engage with relevant sub-contractors on sustainable management techniques.
Kerry County Council	2.1.7	Support existing citizen science initiatives, including those focusing on water quality, through the National Biodiversity Data Centre biodiversity recording scheme.
Kerry County Council	2.1.8	Participate in ongoing research/initiatives recording the environmental co-benefits of climate action in air quality; water quality and biodiversity
Kerry County Council	2.1.9	Develop a strategy to identify public areas that are in need of treatment of invasive species which may threaten important habitats and species.
Kerry County Council	2.1.11	Integrate Nature Based Solutions, including biodiversity water protection measures and sustainable rainwater management practices, into Local Authority Own Developments including public realm/Section 38 and Active Travel projects, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity European sites and cultural heritage considerations and actively support initiatives which demonstrate and publicise successful nature-based solutions.
Kerry County Council	2.2.1	Support Green and Blue Infrastructure at appropriate locations in the county and increase connectivity of the protected areas network using appropriate buffer zones, corridors, stepping-stones and/or flyways, having due regard to opportunities to promote climate action co-benefits, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity European sites and cultural heritage considerations.
Kerry County Council	2.2.2	Flood alleviation projects and coastal protection schemes to investigate the use of Nature Based Solutions. having due regard for environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
Kerry County Council	2.2.3	Any works to be undertaken by KCC in the drainage and/or maintenance of waterbodies will be adequately environmentally assessed. The IFI shall be consulted on such works, as appropriate.
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	3.1.4	Work with partners to implement the objectives of the Water Framework Directive
Kerry County Council	3.2.1	Regulate and inspect activities and operations in the water quality, waste management and air quality sectors
Kerry County Council	3.2.2	Work with partners, including Uisce Eireann and the National Federation of Ground Water Schemes, to support initiatives seeking to protect and sustainably manage water resources to ensure climate resilience, whilst promoting the need for any supported activities or development to comply with relevant environmental protection requirements.
Kerry County Council	3.2.4	Increase water fountains in the community to promote refill over single use plastics

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Kildare County Council	N6	Support existing citizen science initiatives including those focusing on water quality through the National Biodiversity Data Centre biodiversity recording through training of public/stakeholders and publicisin
Kildare County Council	N7	Commission the 'Local Authority County Wetland Survey', develop a Wetland Restoration Plan, this shall identify priority areas for habitat restoration, carbon capture and water and biodiversity benefits, along with phasing for restoration. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive
Kildare County Council	N8	The Council will seek to progress Flood Alleviation schemes in the County in conjunction with the Office of Public Works (OPW); having due regard to the need to promote natural and nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
Kildare County Council	N13	Develop and implement a Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and incorporate Surface Water Management Plans for both Council and private sector projects, and to prioritise sustainable drainage systems over conventional systems in line with national guidance parameters
Kildare County Council	R14	To carry out a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change, and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. Implement any protective and remediation measures for waterbodies identified.
Kilkenny County Council	3.7	Implement Nature-based Solutions and biodiversity enhancement in new Kilkenny County Council developments
Kilkenny County Council	3.8	Implement Nature-based Solutions and biodiversity enhancement through the planning process
Kilkenny County Council	3.1	Assess feasibility of identifying waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme climate events, and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.
Kilkenny County Council	3.11	Assess the need for guidance/ planning policy regarding the impact of new development proposed for areas determined to have a water supply and quality constraint (i.e., from climate related drought, extreme rainfall events).
Laois County Council	77	Laois County Council will continue to enforce GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) regulations, ensuring water bodies resilience to climate changes are sustained
Leitrim County Council	N 7	Assist with a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive with a focus on follow-up and protective / remedial action.
Louth County Council	NEGI 15	Work with LAWPRO to develop flood risk assessments for Rivers in Louth
Meath County Council	NE 9	Carry out an assessment of Section 4 Discharge to Water Licences.
Offaly County Council	NE 4.2.5	Assess all new development for the implementation of natural water retention measures

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Roscommon County Council	BET5	Utilise nature based solutions in tandem with biodiversity enhancement measures in RCC operations and the design and management of Roads projects and associated works and in accordance with the Green Infrastructure strategy
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 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 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 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 5	Develop, enhance and maintain RCC climate risk monitoring systems.
Sligo County Council	30	Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for Co. Sligo which addresses all of the relevant climate related issues & includes appropriate actions which supports green & blue infrastructure, NBSs, integrates biodiversity considerations into new & existing operations & developments. The implementation of the Biodiversity Plan will be underpinned by ecological surveys and assessments to ensure interventions are appropriate to the receiving environment
Sligo County Council	36	Create working group on Nature Based Solutions to identify suitable options and explore their use and expansion within the County.

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Sligo County Council	37	Convene a Flooding Working Group to improve local flood protection (maintenance) and enhanced flood response (required resources). Examine areas where sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) and nature based solutions can be considered.
Tipperary County Council	21	To carry out a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events associated with climate change, and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.
Tipperary County Council	28	Resolve local flooding issues utilising OPW and Department of Transport funding (Drainage programme, Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works, OPW Minor Works Scheme and Nature Based Solutions.
Tipperary County Council	47	Having consideration to the outcome of a feasibility assessment (Action 21), the Council shall consider how new development in areas determined to have both a water supply and a water quality constraint (i.e. from climate related drought, extreme rain fall events) may impact on water quality.
Tipperary County Council	58	Develop and implement a Nature-Based Solutions and integrated rainwater management protocol for both Council and private sector projects, and to prioritise NBS in line with national guidance parameters. The protocol will address the following: i. Part 8 and Section 177AE planning applications for active travel, roads, public realm projects, public housing, footpath upgrades, public and council carparks, greenway/blueway planning etc with targets for all. ii. 'Taking in Charge' – review taking-in-charge processes. iii. Plan and resource maintenance. iv. Education and awareness for public and elected members. v. Incorporation of water sensitive urban design concepts, including rainwater collection, at early stage vi. Integration of Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance for watercourses.
Tipperary County Council	62	Support existing citizen science initiatives including National Biodiversity Data Centre biodiversity recording through training of public/stakeholders and publicising schemes and resources.
Tipperary County Council	63	Building on work carried out for the 'Tipperary County Wetland Survey', develop a 'Wetland Restoration Plan', this shall identify priority areas for habitat restoration, carbon capture and biodiversity benefits, along with phasing for restoration and 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.
Tipperary County Council	65	Organise capacity building training on climate action and biodiversity for community groups and stakeholders etc, including sharing of experiences and use of exemplar projects and demonstration sites.
Tipperary County Council	74	To support and inform a climate proofing programme for natural water resources, and to better manage flooding at the catchment level, the Council will identify a sub-catchment where water quality objectives are not being met, and where there is an established flood risk. A study will be commissioned for this sub-catchment to: i. Identify the reasons why Water Framework Directive water quality objectives are not being met,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Set out baseline water quality standards to enable monitoring, iii. Identify solutions (incl nature based) to reducing flood risk at the catchment level, and, iv. Set out viable, positive and collaborative mechanisms at the community level for how they can be delivered. v. The programme shall have due regard to the protection of biodiversity and European sites and avoidance of habitat fragmentation.
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	3.4	Develop nature-based flooding approaches in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Assessment made at whole-catchment level (catchment as the management unit). Prioritise delivery of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)
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
Wicklow County Council	7 NEGI	Support and facilitate LAWPRO projects improving water quality within the county catchments. Example scheme: Avonmore Waters of Life Project, having due regard to the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.
Wicklow County Council	25 NEGI	Host an annual uplands forum to develop an integrated partnership with key stakeholders to develop carbon sequestration, catchment management and tackle recreational pressures on upland sites delivering protection of habitat.

Table 2: DZ actions that cite LAWPRO as a Stakeholder

Local Authority	Action No	Action
Clare County Council	DZ-N3	Support LAWPRO in the development of water quality projects for the DZ
Longford County Council	3	Deliver adaptation measures to combat the risk of and build resilience to the negative impacts of climate change.
Mayo County Council	DZ 31	With respect to DZ actions, ensure that they are aligned with the conservation objectives for the Owenduff/Nephin complex SAC, specifically those habitats/species within the DZ
Mayo County Council	DZ 32	With respect to DZ actions, ensure that they are aligned with the conservation objectives for the Corraun Plateau SAC, specifically those habitats/ species within the DZ
Mayo County Council	DZ 33	With respect to DZ actions, ensure that they are aligned with the conservation objectives for the Clew Bay complex SAC, specifically those habitats/species within the DZ
Mayo County Council	DZ 34	Protect and maintain our freshwater and transitional water systems, in order to achieve the highest possible water quality and achieving Water Framework Directive objectives.
Roscommon County Council	DZ 4	Develop a climate change risk and vulnerability assessment against which proposed public and private development within the DZ can be proofed.
Roscommon County Council	DZ 5	Prioritise nature based solutions in the execution of all development within the decarbonisation zone aligned with the National Implementation Strategy for Nature-Based Solutions for the management of rainwater and surface water run-off in urban areas, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality.
Roscommon County Council	DZ 6	Implement the provisions of the Tree Management Strategy with a focus on native trees, in all RCC functional areas within the DZ to promote canopy health and expansion and enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity.
Tipperary County Council	8	Help to support and build overall awareness (community, public and businesses) and capacity around positive and effective climate actions that they can undertake in the area.
Tipperary County Council	9	Consider the development and implementation of a collaborative/innovative approach to nature-based, land land-use diversification and biodiversity rich solutions, on a catchment basis to support water quality improvement, carbon capture, the bio-economy and flood risk management.
Wexford County Council	DZ NEGI 1	Work with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) on the Slaney Pilot catchment Management Plan and Catchment Fora to facilitate greater public participation in water management, under the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 and support the implementation of all relevant remediation and mitigation measures required to maintain or achieve good or high-quality water status in the County

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

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