



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 Housing, Local Government &
Heritage (DHLGH)
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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)**.

Please note that this is a high-level assessment performed by the CAROs to inform DHLGH 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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) Actions:

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

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- **69** of all 3282 actions relate to the DHLGH.
- these are contained in **19** 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 the DHLGH.
- These are contained in **3** 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 DHLGH as a stakeholder across local authorities.

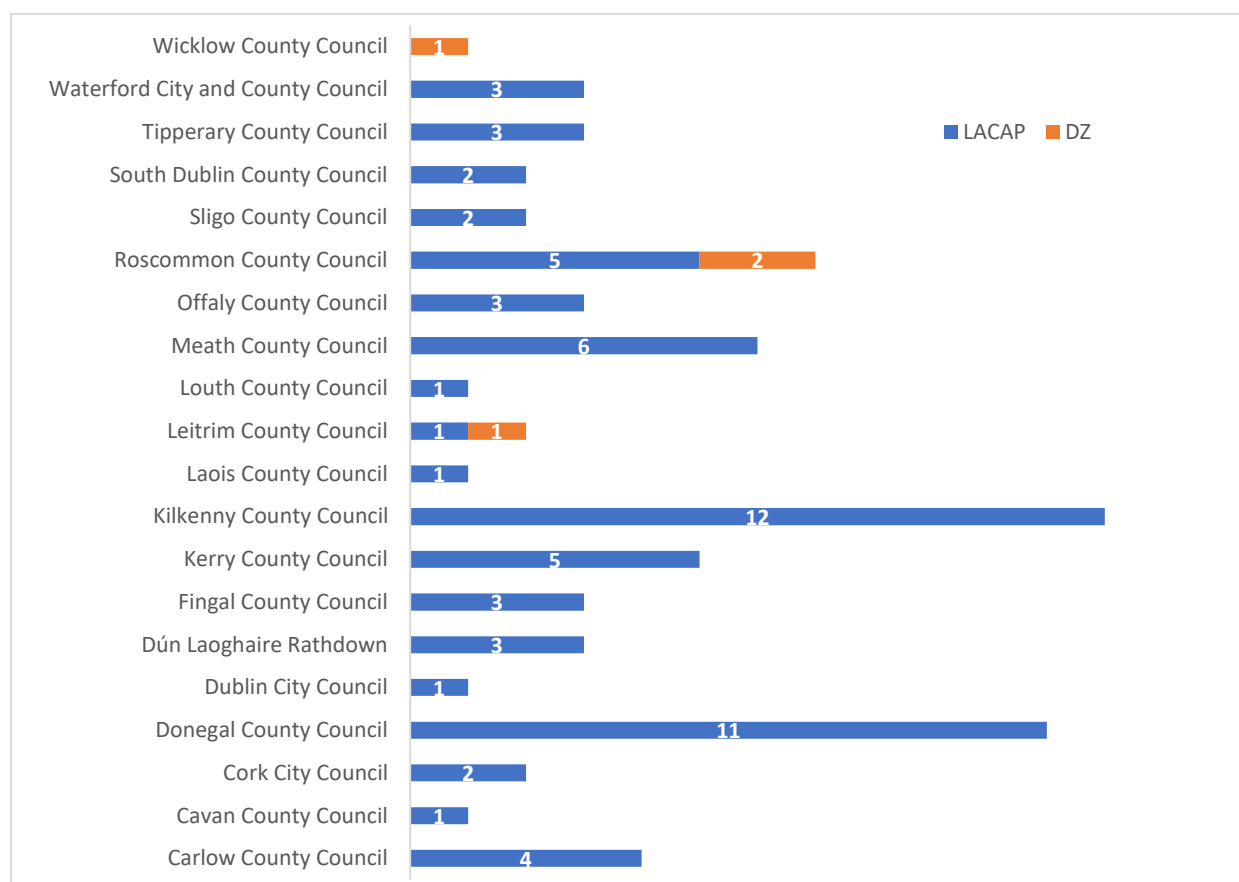


Figure 1: Breakdown of DHLGH stakeholder actions according to Local Authority LACAP and DZ

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 DHLGH as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 35% of the total number of LACAP actions that cite the DHLGH as a

stakeholder address both mitigation and adaptation while 38% are specifically mitigation actions and 27% specifically relate to adaptation.

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of DZ actions that cite the DHLGH as a stakeholder according to whether they are identified as mitigation or adaptation or combined. 50% of the total number of DZ actions that cite the DHLGH as a stakeholder address both mitigation and adaptation while 50% are specifically mitigation actions.

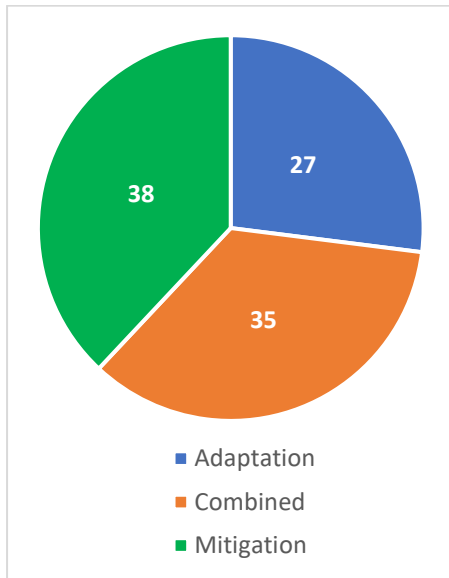


Figure 2: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of LACAP DHLGH stakeholder actions

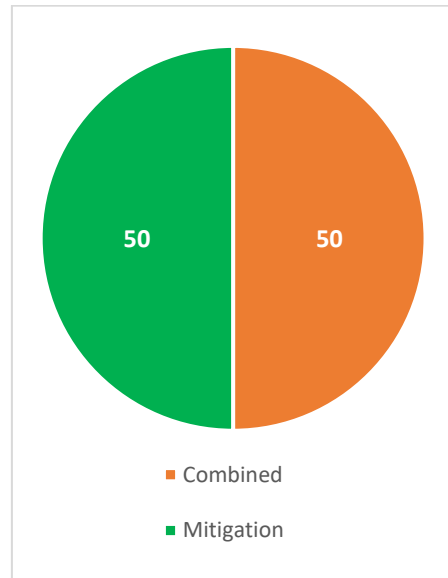


Figure 3: Percentage Adaptation/Mitigation breakdown of DZ DHLGH stakeholder actions

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

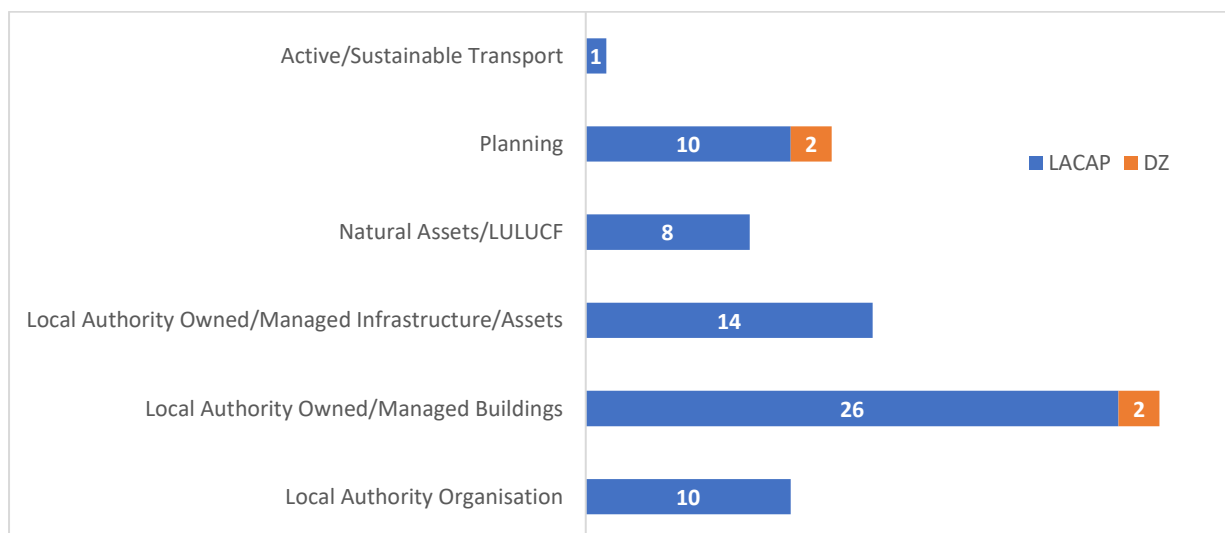


Figure 4: Tier 1 classification of LACAP and DZ DHLGH stakeholder actions

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

Local authority owned/managed Buildings:

- Upgrade and retrofitting of social housing.
- Flagship new housing developments.
- Best practice for retrofit of historic buildings.

Local authority owned/managed infrastructure/assets:

- Climate risk assessment of assets.
- Energy efficiency measures.
- Training and skills.

Planning:

- Upgrade vacant and derelict properties.
- Urban regeneration designed to maximise efficient land use.

Local Authority Organisation:

- Staff training (biodiversity and traditional building conservation).
- Implement Heritage Plan.
- Demonstrate leadership.
- Staff travel and flexi-time policies.

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

- Staff training.
- Guidance policies for new developments in vulnerable areas.
- Nature based solutions and biodiversity enhancement measures.

All 69 LACAP and 4 DZ actions that cite the DHLGH as a stakeholder are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

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

Local Authority	Action no	Action
Carlow County Council	B 1.7	Upgrade existing social housing units using the worst first principal to B2 or cost optimal to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and contribute to alleviating of fuel poverty for vulnerable residents, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures
Carlow County Council	B 1.8	Facilitate the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Carlow Town and County through schemes such as Towns Centre First, Croí Conaithe, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.
Carlow County Council	B 1.9	Identify derelict properties throughout the County and use legislative powers such as Compulsory Purchase Order and compulsory acquisition order to facilitate their reuse; having due 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.
Carlow County Council	B 1.10	Target brownfield, vacancy and dereliction as part of the housing for all programme through repair and lease, buy and renew and SHIP programmes; 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.
Cavan County Council	BE 10	Facilitate and support the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Cavan Town and County through schemes such as Town Centre First, having regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity and the need to appropriately protect and conserve structures.
Cork City Council	3.11	Implement, and where possible accelerate, the plan to retrofit the social-housing stock and carry out energy efficiency upgrades on City Council buildings, having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.
Cork City Council	3.12	Accelerate retrofitting of the social housing stock to at least a B2 BER or the Cost Optimal Equivalent (as defined by the building regulations Part L- conservation of fuel and energy).
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 2.1	Implement Energy Efficiency and Fabric Upgrade Programmes for existing social homes to achieve upgrade to a minimum BER B2 rating, reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption, and address fuel poverty.

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Donegal County Council	BE 2.2	Upgrade existing social housing units that are damaged by defective concrete blocks to a minimum BER B2 to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and address fuel poverty.
Donegal County Council	BE 2.3	Work towards affordable homes that are made available for purchase or for rent by the Council under Housing for All having a minimum BER B2 rating.
Donegal County Council	BE 3.1	Work towards new build social housing units provided by DCC meeting a minimum A2 BER Rating to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and address fuel poverty.
Donegal County Council	BE 6.3	Undertake a climate risk assessment of local authority owned assets (cultural, built, archaeological and natural) based on forthcoming methodology for local authorities from the DHLGH.
Donegal County Council	NE 1.5	Support national and regional initiatives to strengthen ecological expertise in the Council.
Donegal County Council	NE 3.1	Support national and regional agencies to develop a Designated Marine Area Plan, off the coast of Donegal and the North West region, in line with provisions in the National Marine Planning Framework and Project Ireland 2040.
Donegal County Council	SR 1.1	Support National and Regional agencies to deliver energy efficiency refurbishment of pump stations within Taking in Charge Programme for Group Water Schemes (GWS).
Donegal County Council	SR 1.2	Support National and Regional agencies to deliver Water Conservation on Group Water Schemes (GWS) under the Taking in Charge (TIC) Programme for GWS.
Dublin City Council	R 1.1	Flagship project: Lower Dominick Street
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	EB 9	Undertake energy upgrades on dlr-owned housing stock through the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	EB 23	Complete Climate Change Risk Assessments on identified dlr owned architecture/ archaeology
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
Fingal County Council	F 29	Build climate resilience of archaeological and built heritage in public and private ownership through the Community Monuments Fund
Fingal County Council	E 17	Continue to make energy efficiency retrofits to social housing under the DHLGH-supported Energy Retrofit Programme. Ensure FCC's social housing stock has a B2 or cost optimal energy rating where feasible by 2030 (subject to programmes and funding support).

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Fingal County Council	E 31	Conduct research into the Council’s historic building stock that consider pre- and post- works energy performance and devise advise on of appropriate and sensitive retrofitting/energy upgrading of traditional buildings to inform works to other Council-owned properties and to guide private owners
Kerry County Council	1.6.8	Continue a Climate Change Risk Assessment & Adaptation Assessment approach of local-authority owned heritage sites, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, and cultural heritage related sensitivities.
Kerry County Council	1.7.1	Continue to seek funding from the Community Monument Funds (CMF) to undertake works to local authority owned sites identified at risk from climate change.
Kerry County Council	1.7.2	Continue to participate in research projects on the impacts of climate change (mitigation and adaptation) on heritage sites
Kerry County Council	1.7.3	Continue to improve energy performance and build climate, resilience in local architectural, heritage through management, and administration of the Built, Heritage Investment Scheme, Historic Structures Fund and any other relevant funds introduced, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, European sites and biodiversity.
Kerry County Council	1.7.4	Facilitate and support traditional/appropriate construction skills required for climate action in the maintenance of historic fabric of local-authority owned sites
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	1.15	Incorporate climate and sustainability best practise in Kilkenny County Council developments
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	2.2	Review Local Authority business travel model and working arrangements to move towards the Avoid-Shift-Improve model, reduce emissions, energy use and reduce office space
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 practise 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.

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Kilkenny County Council	2.32	Continue to add to the Vacant Sites Register and Derelict Sites Register, 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	2.35	Deliver a retrofit programme for Kilkenny County Council Social Housing, 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	2.36	Undertake a programme of energy reduction, retrofitting and onsite renewable measures on Local Authority buildings and facilities, 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	3.1	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	B 9	Facilitate and support the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Carrick-on-Shannon Town and County through schemes such as Town centre First having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.
Louth County Council	BEI 2	Continued urban regeneration to ensure most efficient use of existing urban land while having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve biodiversity and natural and built heritage.
Meath County Council	BET 2	Continue to work with appropriate external stakeholders to deliver social housing at a BER B2 or cost optimal standard including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature-based solutions, as feasible.
Meath County Council	BET 10	Construct all new LA properties to A2 Energy Rating or higher including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature-based solutions, where feasible.
Meath County Council	BET 11	All Buy and Renew acquisition properties should be retrofitted to a B2 BER rating or higher including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature-based solutions utilised, as feasible.
Meath County Council	BET 14	New Building projects designed to nZEB standard including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature-based solutions.

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Meath County Council	BET 15	Promote the reuse and refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties in town centres and simultaneously promote the sustainable use of these properties for appropriate active town centre uses.
Meath County Council	NE 3	Develop options for the delivery of a National Implementation Strategy for Nature-Based Solutions and interim guidance to the management of rainwater and surface water run-off in urban areas.
Offaly County Council	GL 1.1	As leaders on climate action, local authorities will need to demonstrate strong ownership of agreed targets and the capacity to integrate climate action into the core policymaking, prioritisation, and budgetary processes of their organisations.
Offaly County Council	GL 2.1	Promote and support carbon adaptation and mitigation policies, objectives, and standards of the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity, air and water quality.
Offaly County Council	BE 2.1.1	Continue to retrofit local authority social housing stock under the National Retro Fit Programme; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.
Roscommon County Council	BET3	Manage energy efficiency and vacancy levels in Local Authority housing stock in accordance with the Housing Strategy and national retrofit programme. Include energy awareness and management information in pre-tenancy training and to existing and prospective tenants as part of retrofits/energy upgrades where applicable; having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European Sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
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	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.
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
Sligo County Council	15	Ensure that the Social Housing Retrofitting Program is completed each year and expanded where possible.
Sligo County Council	22	Achieve energy efficiency objectives of Housing Delivery Action Plan

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South Dublin County Council	E 10	Retrofits of the Council's housing stock, prioritising energy efficiency upgrades in areas that have been identified in the Dublin Region Energy Masterplan as being energy poor.
South Dublin County Council	T 8	Deliver a network of secure, public bicycle and powered personal transportation parking, to accommodate a variety of bike types across the County, including at schools, parks, playgrounds, towns, and villages.
Tipperary County Council	9	Advocate for, and (where appropriate) apply a review and update of national 'Staff Travel and Subsistence Rates' to incentivise the use of lower carbon vehicles/car-pooling/transport modes to reduce transport costs/emissions for staff and provide a more conducive working environment by reducing travel for work need
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	48	In line with the Town-Centre First programme, reduce vacancy and dereliction by collaborating with owners in finding ways that these structures can be brought back to use, having due 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.
Waterford City & County Council	1.14	Flexi-time policy – review the flexi-time policy to reduce traffic congestion, emissions and travel times for staff travelling at peak times. (non-public facing roles)
Waterford City & County Council	2.55	Undertake climate risk assessment of local authority owned built heritage assets to identify buildings likely to be impacted by extreme weather or erosion
Waterford City & County Council	3.2	Undertake climate risk assessment of local authority owned natural heritage assets and prepare reinforcement works for those assets that need protection

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

Local Authority	Action no	Action
Leitrim County Council	DZBE5	Undertake a study to identify vacant buildings in the DZ in support of the Town Centre First Policy.
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.
Wicklow County Council	ADZ BE&T 5	Implement the Retrofitting Housing Programme for existing housing stock achieving a BER of B2 or cost optimal level equivalent. Provide newly constructed housing units to an A2 BER rating or in compliance with relevant guidelines within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan. Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity. Create awareness of works undertaken and their benefits to encourage retrofitting in private housing stock.

**Oifig Réigiúnach um
Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide
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