



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Climate Action Plan Annual Progress Report 2024

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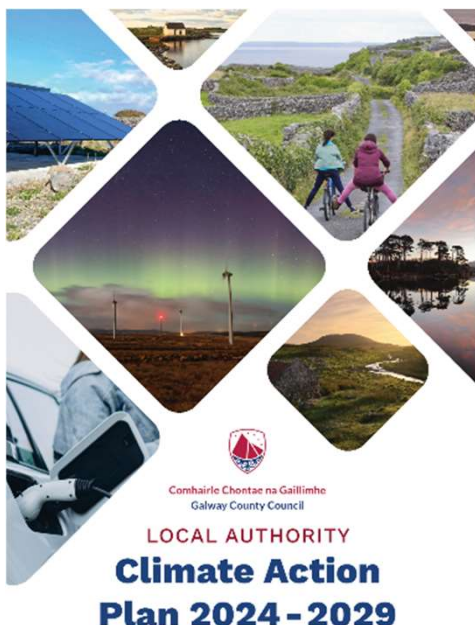
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Introduction



Photo Courtesy of Roisin Murray
and Imelda Reidy (Failte Ireland)

1.1 Galway County Climate Action Plan 2024-2029



The Galway County Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is an action focused plan developed by Galway County Council to deliver and support best practice in climate action, at local level.

Climate Change has been identified as the most pressing long-term global challenge of our time. National and local governments are increasingly required to take ambitious action to decrease greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change (mitigation) and increase resilience to climate change impacts and risks (adaptation).

The Galway County Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 forms part of a longer-term effort that requires a sustained and planned response to support the delivery of the climate objectives at local and community levels.

1.2 Consultation and Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is a key element in both the development and implementation of the Climate Action Plan, as it ensures that the Plan reflects the needs, interests and values of the people who are affected by or involved in the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient society.

A significant programme of Stakeholder Engagement was undertaken in Spring and Summer 2023. A Climate Action Plan Summary Report was developed to serve as evidence base and engagement tool.

Over 200 items of feedback were received via the various means of engagement. This included 177 responses to the Climate, Biodiversity and Heritage Survey, workshop reports and submissions from groups such as Irish Wildlife Trust, An Taisce, Bird Watch Ireland, Tidy Towns Groups, Sustainable Energy Communities, Galway Green Party, the Galway Cycling Campaign, LAWPRO, the Heritage Council, and the National Federation of Group Water Schemes.

80%

Respondents considered it important to set ambitious targets.

91.5%

Respondents said they would like to improve the energy efficiency of their homes or business. Cost was reported as the greatest barrier.

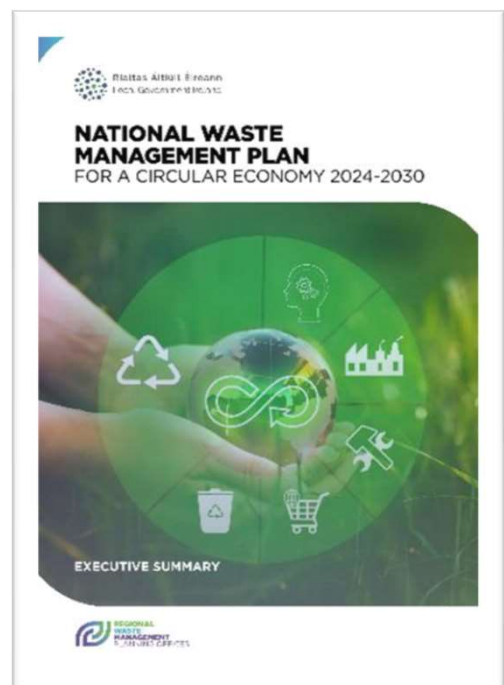
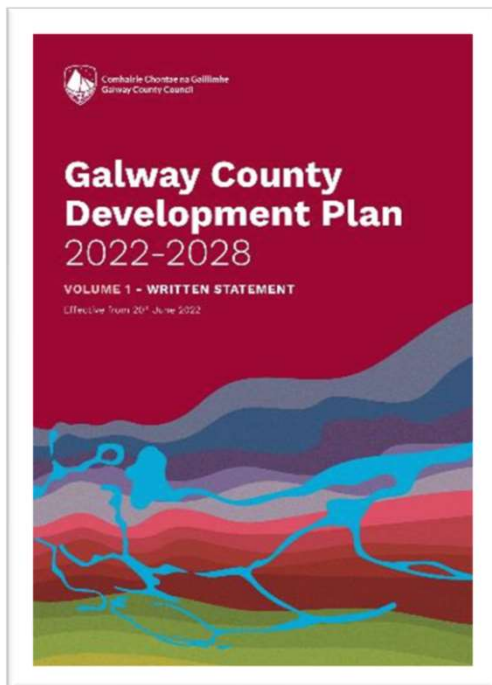
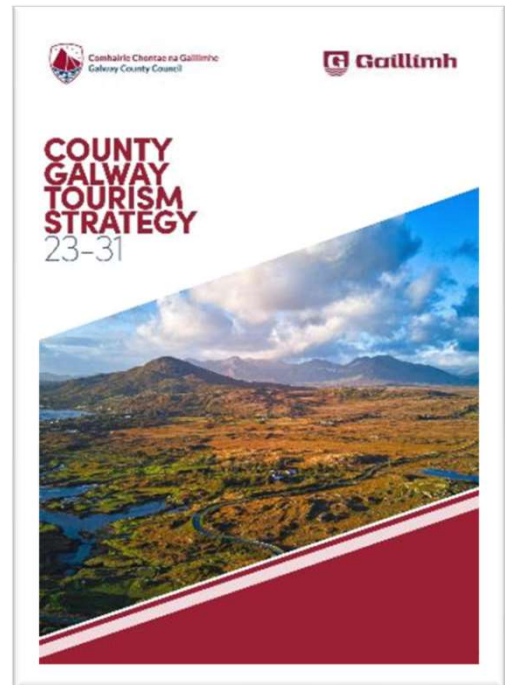
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



“Active citizenship requires the will and the opportunity to participate at every level and in every way – to be the arrow; not the target.”

- President Michael D Higgins

1.3 Climate Action in our Plans and Operations



1.4 Policy and Legislation

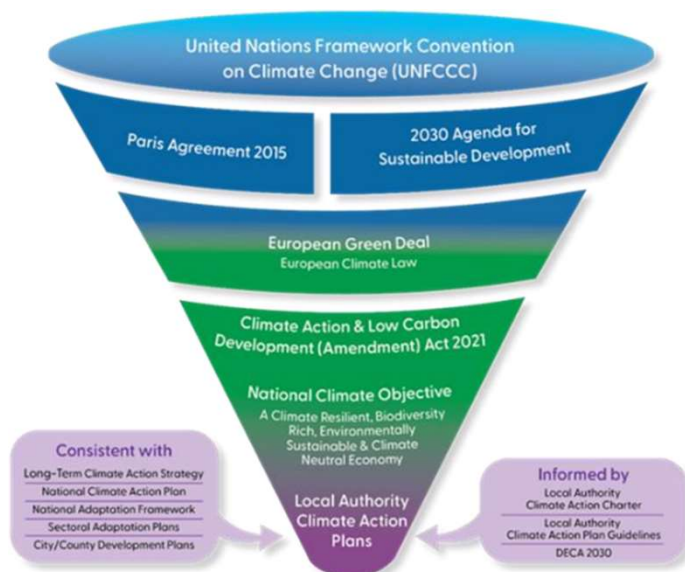
The Plan is based on policies and commitments at multiple levels:

International: The Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide overarching goals for climate action.

European Union: The EU Climate and Energy Framework and EU Adaptation Strategy set specific climate targets for member states.

National: Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 sets legally binding targets, including a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels) and carbon neutrality by 2050.

Local: The Galway County Development Plan 2022 to 2028 sets out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County over a 6-year period.



1.5 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Galway County Council is working to advance the SDGs, through their incorporation into our plans and policies, participation in local and international partnerships and the provision of training and information events both internally and externally.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by UN Member States in 2015. At the Agenda's core are 17 SDGs. These goals aim to "end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere." The SDGs contain 169 targets to be achieved by 2030.

The actions in the Climate Action Plan were aligned to the SDGs to maximise on co-benefits including benefits to livelihoods, economic growth, gender equity, and health and well-being.



1.6 Climate Action Plan Strategic Goals

Transport

- Enhance climate resilience through proactive adaptation measures to safeguard our community's wellbeing and infrastructure.

Adaptation to Climate Risk

- Enhance climate resilience through proactive adaptation measures to safeguard our community's wellbeing and infrastructure.

Circular Economy

- Promote and support a circular economy to reduce waste, conserve resources and enhance sustainability

Energy & Built Environment

- Transform to low-carbon, resilient and sustainable energy and buildings, enhancing the well-being of our community.

Communities & Partnership

- Empower and support climate action across society ensuring a just transition to a low carbon and resilient future.

Governance & Leadership

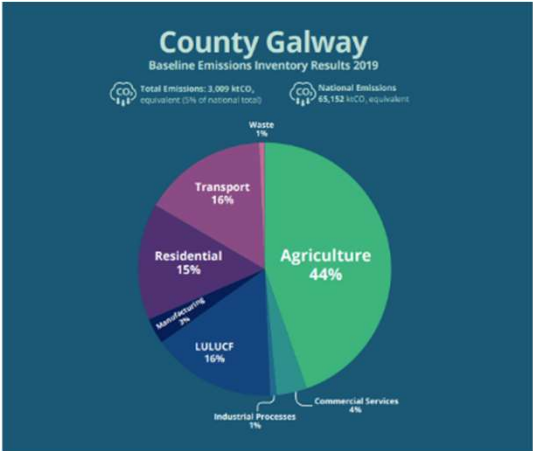
- Foster strong governance and leadership to drive climate action and ensure resilience

Land Use & Green Infrastructure

- Preserve and enhance our natural environment through the implementation and promotion of sustainable land use practices to protect biodiversity and combat climate change.

1.7 Galway County Baseline Emissions

As part of the development of the Climate Action Plan, an assessment of the sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) in the County was carried out. A summary of the findings is set out below.



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Climate Action In Practice

ISLANDS VIEW



Photo Courtesy of Tourism Ireland
Photographer/Creator: Sabrina Bechtold (@Couchflucht)

2.1 Monitoring and Reporting

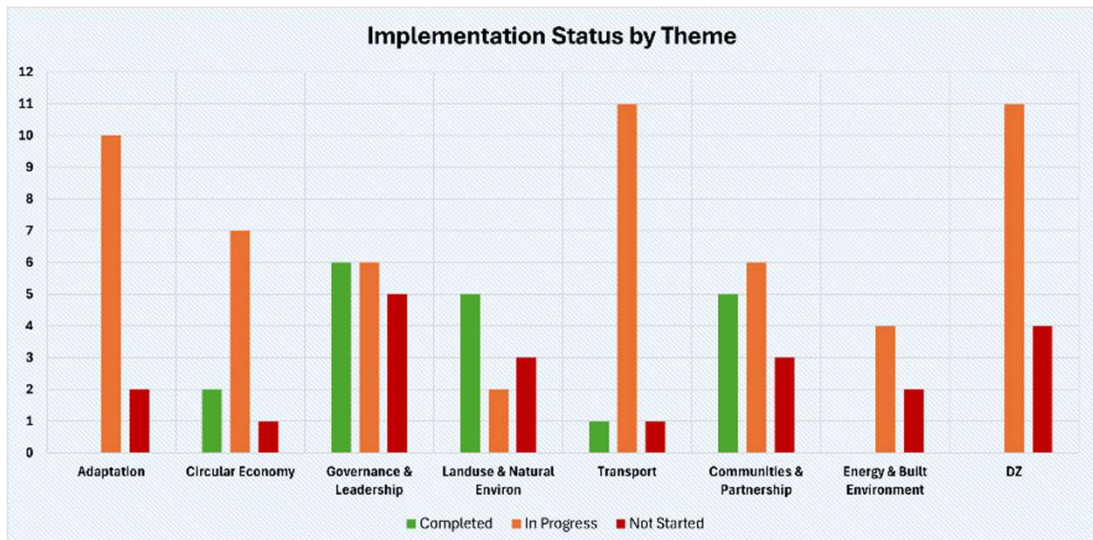
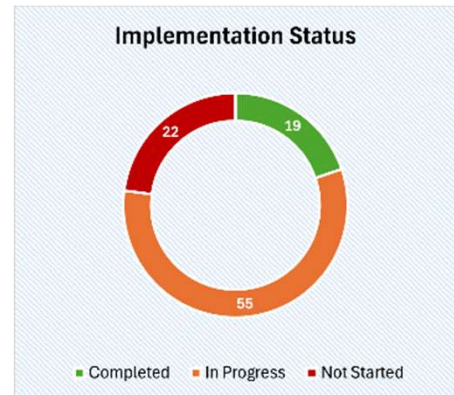
Section 6 of the Galway County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 highlights the importance of evaluating and reporting on the implementation of the plan.

Galway County Council made a commitment to report annually on our performance by way of KPIs. This enables us to pinpoint challenges and opportunities as they arise. The Climate Action Regional Office along with the Local Government Management Agency collect data on an annual basis and KPIs will continue to be added as necessary. The reporting system is managed by the Climate Unit.

Appendix 1 of this document lists all of the actions set out in our Plan and gives an overview of the status of each action and this Chapter highlights some of the actions that were successfully carried out across the organisation in 2024.

2.2 Overall Progress

In 2024, significant efforts were made to begin implementing the Climate Action Plan. So far, 19 recurring actions were completed, with most of these in the Governance & Leadership area, indicating a focus on establishing internal structures for effective climate action. A further 55 actions are currently 'In Progress,' while 22 actions have 'Not Started' and will be the focus of future implementation.



Objective GL 1

Establish effective governance and leadership practices that facilitate the successful implementation of the Plan.



Governance and Leadership Highlight: GL 1.1
Energy and Climate Teams

Galway County Council continues to coordinate efforts and share knowledge through our cross-organisation teams:

- **Climate, Heritage and Biodiversity SPC:** The SPC enables the voice of a wide range of sectoral and electoral representatives to develop policies related to Climate Action and monitor progress on the implementation of the Plan.
- **Climate Unit:** Engaging with both staff and the public, this unit supports and promotes climate action initiatives, ensuring everyone is involved and informed.
- **Climate Action Steering Group:** Comprising senior members from various departments, this group aims to integrate climate action into all our work programs, guiding our overall strategy and priorities.
- **Climate Action Team:** Focused on implementing the actions outlined in the Plan, this team enables collaboration across the organisation.
- **Energy Team:** Dedicated to reducing energy consumption, this team is working to enhance energy efficiency across our buildings, fleet, and public lighting systems.

National KPI	Galway County Council
Climate Action Staff	3 staff members in place: Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer.
Climate Action Teams	50 staff members participating across 3 teams.

Photo Courtesy Letitia Wade
(Fáilte Ireland)

Objective GL 2

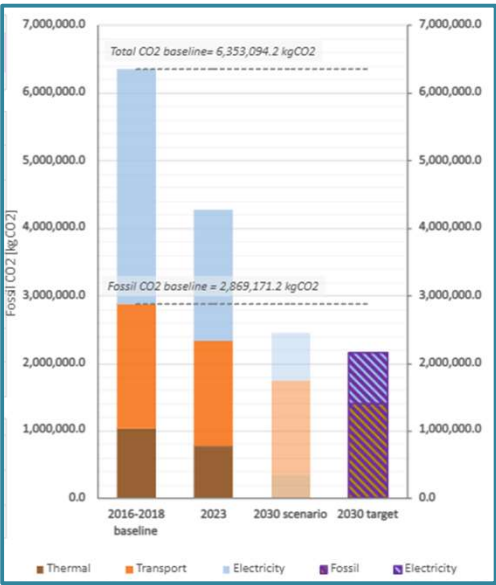
Implement effective energy management and projects across Galway County Council assets aligned with 2030 targets and net zero trajectory.



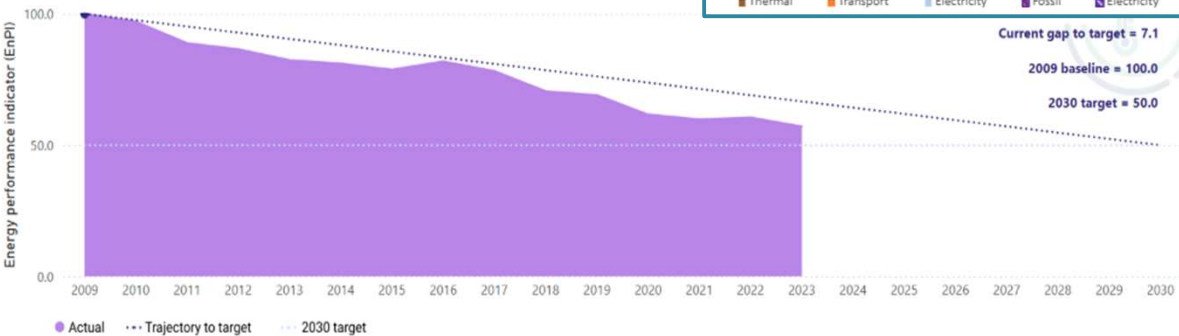
Governance and Leadership Highlight: GL 2.1
Emissions and Targets

Galway County Council, along with all public sector entities, is required to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 51% and improve its energy efficiency by 50% by 2030.

In terms of energy efficiency there has been a 42% improvement since the 2009 baseline. In terms of emissions, background work is ongoing in relation to a series of building upgrade projects for implementation via the SEAI Pathfinder and EXEED Programmes.



Energy efficiency target



Energy Management System

Galway County Council continues to work towards establishing an ISO 50001 accredited Energy Management System. “Significant Energy Users” have been identified as part of this process including Fleet, Public Lighting, Leisure Centres and other large buildings.

In 2024, members of the Energy Team attended an in-person training day to equip them with the skills required to maintain an Energy Management System certified to ISO 50001 standard. An Energy Data Management System was procured.



Objective GL 2

Implement effective energy management and projects across Galway County Council assets aligned with 2030 targets and net zero trajectory.



Governance and Leadership Highlight: GL 2.6 **Public Lighting Upgrades**

Galway County Council manages a network of over 12,300 public lights. Through an extensive upgrade programme, 77% of our public lighting have been upgraded to LED. A total of 1,043 upgrades were completed in 2024. This equates to 127 tonnes of CO₂ or 233,433 kWhrs saved per year.



Governance and Leadership Highlight: GL 2.7 **Retrofitting of Social Housing**

Since 2021, 364 units of our social housing stock have been retrofitted under the National Retrofit Programme. This equates to approximately 12% of the total stock.

In 2024 alone, 80 units were retrofitted to B2 standard. This work included the removal of fossil fuel heating systems and the installation of heat pumps and solar panels. This has resulted in increased comfort and reduced energy bills and an estimated reduction of 1,472 tonnes of CO₂ per year across the programme.



Governance & Leadership

Objective GL 3 and GL 4

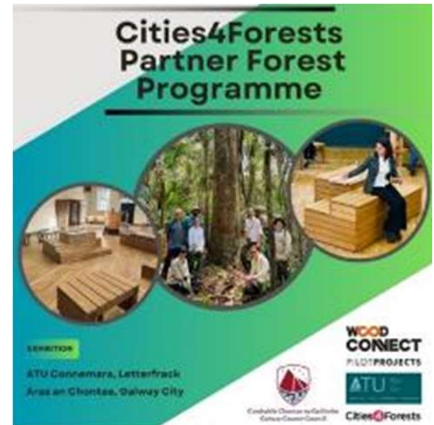
Integrate Climate Action into the local authority's policies, plans, strategies and functions and engage and collaborate with stakeholders.



Governance and Leadership Highlight: GL 3.2 and 4.1

Galway Partner Forest Project

In 2024, work commenced on a Green Public Procurement Strategy for Galway County Council including a process for the sustainable procurement of wood. We teamed up with ATU Letterfrack, Wood Connects and Pilot Projects Design Collective as part of the Cities4Forests initiative. The Cities4Forests Partner Forests program seeks to establish mutually beneficial connections between European municipalities and tropical forest communities around the world. Economic support of community-led businesses in well-managed forest areas is one of the proven ways to conserve these forests.



Throughout 2024, Áras an Chontae was home to some beautiful furniture pieces and more will be installed as permanent features in Clifden Town. These pieces were created by ATU students working with wood from tropical forest communities to construct a high-visibility demonstration project for Galway County Council.

Objective TR 1

Support active travel and modal shift to advance sustainable, accessible, and safe mobility



Transport Highlight: TR 1.3 **Active Travel Schemes**

Galway County Council signed contracts with SYSTRA Ltd. for the design of two major new Active Travel schemes in Athenry and Tuam. Funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA), the schemes will allow for the design of new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure and traffic calming measures in the towns.



Athenry - The €2.9m Active Travel scheme planned includes the provision of a 1.3km Active Travel link between north and south of the railway improving connectivity to the town centre for the residents of over 1000 homes.

Tuam - The €2.5m Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme proposes to provide 1.2km of cycle infrastructure, traffic calming measures, improved pedestrian and cycle connectivity, infrastructure and crossing points and improved accessibility to schools.

Transport Highlight: TR 1.6 **Award for Bus Shelters**

An innovative Galway County Council project designed to improve accessibility and user comfort at bus stops serving rural Gaeltacht communities in south Connemara was named overall winner of the Age Friendly Transport Award.

Competition judges praised the Roads and Transportation Unit for its planning and design of the Cnoc (Indreabhán) and Casla Bus Shelters which enable people with disabilities and older people to access nearby services.



Transport

Objective TR 1

Support active travel and modal shift to advance sustainable, accessible, and safe mobility



Transport Highlight: TR 1.8 Safe Routes to School Scheme

National Pilot Scheme

The NTA has funded Galway County Council to deliver a comprehensive Safe Routes To Schools programme to promote road safety for students walking and cycling to school. Scoil Bhaile Nua, a Primary School near Maigh Cullinn on the N59 was chosen as one of three schools to participate in a National Pilot scheme for schools located on highspeed roads.

The successful delivery of the project was a collaborative effort by Galway County Council, NTA, An Taisce and TII.



Objective TR 2

Support the development and use of low-carbon technologies such as electric and low-carbon fuels

Transport Highlight: TR 2.1 GoCar



Galway County Council introduced a new pilot project in collaboration with GoCar to introduce carsharing services in four new locations across County Galway; Ballinasloe, Tuam, Dunmore, and Portumna. This initiative is designed to promote carsharing as a viable and sustainable mode of transport for our communities. This provides a practical alternative to car ownership, providing numerous benefits such as reducing congestion and lowering emissions.

Objective CP 1

Support communities, enterprises, and individuals to access the capacity, skills, and investment necessary to accelerate climate action



Communities and Partnership Highlight: CP 1.1 Community Climate Action Programme

Galway County Council was delighted with the high level of interest in the 1st round of the Community Climate Action Fund. 55 applications were received from not-for-profit organisations and groups seeking support for a wide range of projects. 32 groups were awarded funding to the value of €762,000. Projects completed in 2024 include:

- ❖ **Ballinderreen Community Centre** – solar panels on the community building, water refill station, window upgrades & planter boxes.
- ❖ **Lackagh Museum & Community Development Association** – LED upgrades and 17 solar panels on the community building, bike rack and water refill station.
- ❖ **Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo** – LED lighting upgrades on community buildings.
- ❖ **The Mall Theatre Tuam** - building fabric upgrades, building repairs and increased insulation.



Communities and Partnership Highlight: CP 1.2 Community Engagement & Education

One of the priority actions identified in the Climate Action Plan is the provision of public training, information and support programmes.



To this end the Climate Unit participated in events throughout the county including Clifden, Tuam, Ballindereen, Laurencetown, Lackagh, Kinvara, Glenamaddy, Inis Oirr and Moycullen with support from SEAI, LEO, Housing, Planning, and Community Sections.

Communities & Partnership

Objective CP 1

Support communities, enterprises, and individuals to access capacity, skills, and investment necessary to accelerate climate action.



Communities and Partnership Highlight: CP 1.2 **Climate Action Course for over 60's**



In 2024, a 6-week, 6-step climate action course for individuals over 60 was conducted in Oranmore and Ballygar. Developed and facilitated by Jacinta Barrins, a former UN resident coordinator and CEO of the 60plus Climate Drive organisation, the course addressed the direct link between everyday actions and climate change. Participants learned how to change their behaviour, calculate their carbon footprint, implement climate actions in their homes and communities.



This initiative highlights our commitment to engaging older adults in meaningful climate action and fostering sustainable practices within the community.

Communities and Partnership Highlight: CP1.7 **Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) Programme**

The Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) programme supports communities in the transition to a low carbon society. As part of the programme Galway County Council works with SEAI mentors to support the completion of community level Energy Masterplans (EMP). 2024 saw the launch of the Kinvara and Galway County PPN EMPs.



Communities & Partnership

Objective CP 1

Support communities, enterprises, and individuals to access the capacity, skills, and investment necessary to accelerate climate action.



Communities and Partnership Highlight: CP 1.10 Business Initiatives & Supports

SMALL CHANGES... BIG IMPACT




Difig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Gaillimh · Galway



Green for Business helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving them access to a green consultant who'll show them the small changes that can have a big impact on the company - and the world around us.

Last year, LEO Galway approved 32 companies for this support.

Energy Efficiency

This new support enables small businesses to invest in technologies and equipment to make their businesses more energy efficient.

The grant is available to companies who through participation in the Green for Micro, GreenStart or SEAI Energy Audit programmes have identified the technology and equipment need & benefits. The grant covers up to 75% of the costs to a maximum amount of €10,000.

Last year, LEO Galway approved 12 Energy Efficiency Grants.

 **Enterprise Ireland**



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Objective LN 2

Protect, conserve, and enhance County Galway's biodiversity and heritage.



Landscape & Natural Environment Highlight: LN 2.1 **Biodiversity Awareness & Engagement**

Over the past year, the Biodiversity Office achieved significant milestones, including securing the largest funding allocation for biodiversity projects in the county's history. This financial support enabled numerous initiatives that enhanced Galway's biodiversity, protected natural heritage, and boosted community engagement and awareness.

Highlights included the Connemara Biodiversity Awareness and Engagement Project delivered by BirdWatch Ireland which aimed to enhance appreciation and engagement with the biodiversity of Connemara among local communities, landowners and the public. This was achieved using existing information from recent ecological surveys to create engaging outputs and host events that highlighted the area's natural heritage and encouraged active participation, including an awareness event on the birds of Connemara in Roundstone and a dawn chorus on Roundstone Bog.

Landscape & Natural Environment Highlight: LN 2.1 **The Hare's Corner**

The Hare's Corner is a biodiversity initiative of the Burren-based landscape charity Burrenbeo Trust, that was rolled out to landowners in County Galway in partnership with Galway County Council in 2024.

The project provided comprehensive support to landowners from around the county to enhance biodiversity through simple yet impactful actions. These actions included the creation of wildlife ponds, native mini-woodlands, heritage mini-orchards with apple trees from the Irish Seed Savers Association and bespoke plans for nature, water and peatlands.



Background Photo Courtesy of Tourism Ireland.
Photographer/Creator: Christoph Partsch

Objective LN 2

Protect, conserve, and enhance County Galway's biodiversity and heritage.



Landscape & Natural Environment Highlight: LN 2.6 **Biodiversity Week**

National Biodiversity Week featured a countywide programme of free events that showcased the many aspects of biodiversity, from family days out at beautiful natural amenities to information and discussions about threats to the local environment.

The weeklong programme of events also included a bat walk, a talk about the bumblebees of Connemara, a sustainable gardening course and a biodiversity table quiz.



Landscape & Natural Environment Highlight: LN 2.6 **Develop and Implement Heritage Plan**

The Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030 was developed through extensive pre-draft consultations across the county, including workshops and targeted art sessions. The plan, which was adopted in December 2024, reflects comprehensive community input.



Objective AD 1

Increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of the local authority and the local community to the current and projected impacts of climate change.

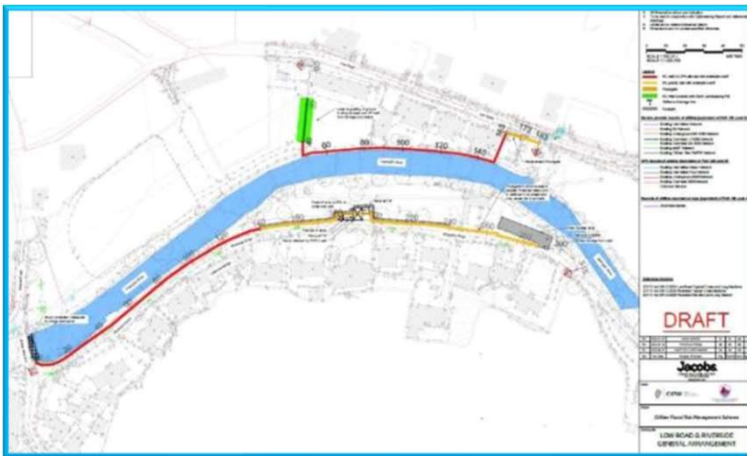


Adaptation to Climate Risk Highlight: AD 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.7

Flood Risk Assessment and Management

Galway County Council plays a significant role in flood protection through various initiatives and collaborations. In 2024, work progressed on the following projects:

- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme: Under Tranche 1 2018 to 2027:
Ballinasloe – commenced 2019, now at Emerging Preferred Option – Approx. €20M.
Clifden – commenced 2021, preferred Option identified – Approx. €5M.



- Groundwater - Gort Lowlands – Stage 1 Approx. €30M
- Coastal Flood Schemes – Inishboffin and Oranmore to Kinvara
- OPW Minor Works Programme

Objective AD 2

Ensure an appropriate, coordinated and resourced emergency response during climate related emergencies and events.



Adaptation to Climate Risk: AD 2.4

SWEMS (Severe Weather Event Management System)

There are increasing demands on Galway County Council services, in particular our Emergency Services, in response to climate related extreme weather events. The SWEMS (Severe Weather Event Management System) developed by Galway County Council was a key resource supporting a proactive and coordinated response in 2024. The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management has provided funding to support the further roll out of SWEMS on a shared service approach to other local authorities.

Adaptation to Climate Risk

Objective CE 1

Support Communities, businesses and individuals to reduce the generation of waste and increase the quantity of waste reused and recycled.



Circular Economy Highlight: CE 1.1 School Uniform Reuse Scheme

In 2024, Galway County Council announced the rollout of a school uniform recycle / reuse scheme. This is a pilot project under the Anti-Dumping Initiative in cooperation with the Parents Association of St. Ita's and St. Brendan's National Schools in Loughrea. Parents are invited to bring in their old school uniforms that are no longer of use to them. The uniforms are then sorted and available for other parents. There is no cost to the parents and any voluntary donations are given to the local branch of St. Vincent De Paul.



Circular Economy Highlight: CE 1.1 An Mheitheal Rothar



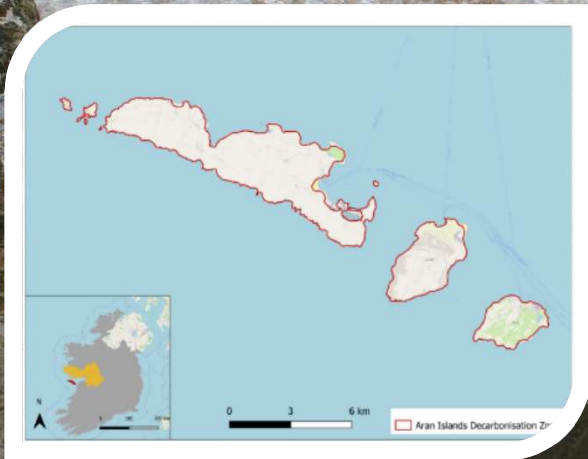
In 2024, Galway County Council, private sector representatives and social enterprise staff participated in a Circular Economy workshop run by the OECD and facilitated by the Western Development Commission.

One of the projects rolled out following the workshop was the facilitation of the Social Enterprise - An Mheitheal Rothar, to expand its collections to Galway County by working with the Civic Amenity Site in Ballinasloe to accept used bicycles on their behalf. An Mheitheal Rothar repair the bikes and make them available through their ReCycle Your Cycle programme.

Oileáin Árann Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) Highlights

Stakeholder Group

The 3 islands of Oileáin Árann form the DZ for the County of Galway. A DZ is an area where local authorities and communities work together to find innovative ways to reduce emissions. The community owned Comharchumann Forbartha Árann Teo is an exemplary example of local community climate action. They are involved in numerous EU and National Projects including those listed below. A DZ Stakeholder Group was established in 2024 to support the work of the local community and drive further Climate Action.



LEAP – Local Energy Agencies in Peripheral Regions

The aim of this EU LIFE funded project is to create local social enterprise “integrated home renovation services” in the North and West of Ireland. Under the project GFI (Gníomhaireacht Fuinnimh an Iarthair) Local Energy Agency was established to support home retrofitting projects in the Galway Gaeltacht and the Islands. The agency helps homeowners and works with local contractors to provide a cohesive home renovation service. Galway County Council are on the steering group for the project and partners include Údaras, ATU and the LAs in the region.



Clean Energy for EU Islands

This initiative provides a long-term framework to help islands generate their own sustainable, low-cost energy. Galway County Council supported successful applications for Oileáin Árann under the 30 islands for 2030 programme. The secretariat is now providing significant technical and organisational support in relation to the clean energy transition.

3

Next Steps



Next Steps

In February 2024, our Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was adopted. Galway County Council will continue to work collaboratively and in partnership with a range of stakeholders to support the delivery of this plan. A sample of the projects and initiatives included in the Galway County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025, that support the delivery of actions in the Climate Action Plan are set out below.

Physical Infrastructure, Fire and Emergency Services, Climate Change		
Water Services		
Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	SDG
Work with Uisce Éireann to ensure that key water and wastewater investments are made by UÉ to enable sustainable urban and rural growth in County Galway. Drive the implementation of the Rural Water Programme with a focus on addressing infrastructure deficits in our towns and villages.	The Capital Team in Water Services assist and input to UÉ Capital Investment Plan along with colleagues in Planning to ensure that infrastructure investment by UÉ is aligned with development plans. Strengthen the resources in the Rural Water Unit to advance the wastewater deficits in partnership with UÉ	6
Roads & Transportation		
Develop Greenways Infrastructure including the Galway to Portumna Greenway and the Galway to Oughterard and the Oughterard to Clifden Greenway.	Advance the preferred option on the Galway to Portumna Greenway. Continue the work on the Connemara Greenway through planning and construction.	9
Work with the NTA in the updating of the Galway Transport Strategy and publication of the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (GMATS).	Draft to public consultation.	11
Support the delivery and implementation of Local Transport plans, Community Based Transport Plans, area-based Transport plans having regard to the Council’s commitment, universal design principles and by putting measures In place to address the specific needs of identified groups.	Community Transport Studies for 6 towns - Headford, Kinvara, Portumna, Oughterard, Maigh Cuillin and Clifden. Collaboration with the NTA National Cycle Project Office teams to develop a National Cycle Network - Cycle Connects strategy currently being developed by the NTA.	11
Continue the preparation and delivery of mobility plans incorporating programmes such as Active Travel measures, Safe Routes to School and Low-cost safety schemes etc. having regard to the Council’s commitment to universal design principles.	Progress and manage NTA funded Active Travel projects across the county. Prioritise delivery of the Active Travel/Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme.	11

Physical Infrastructure, Fire and Emergency Services, Climate Change		
Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	SDG
Climate Change		
Support and Advance the Decarbonisation Zone in County Galway.	Work in partnership with the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) Stakeholder Group in the development and implementation of action plans. Roll-Out dedicated DZ funding opportunities.	13
Implementation of the Community Action Climate Fund, having regard to the specific needs of the identified groups.	Administer 2024 Fund. Initiate 2025 Fund.	13
Implement Galway County Council Energy Efficiency & Carbon Reduction Programme towards meeting national 2030 targets.	Support SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities. Advance energy projects to achieve emissions reductions and energy efficiency targets across Council buildings Deliver design for energy upgrades. Apply for ISO 50001 for Energy Management in respect of Fleet, Public Lighting, 6 Council Buildings.	13
Implement the Galway County Climate Action Plan on a whole of organization basis through the agreed governance structures and reporting progress to Management Team, with measures to address specific needs of the identified groups of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.	Enhance Climate Resilience and Adaption by delivering Flood Risk Management solutions in collaboration with OPW. Secure funding and complete the retrofit of the Public Lighting network with LED luminaries.	13
Economic Development, Planning and Project Management Office		
Planning		
Planning Department input to large-scale energy projects.	Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) reports to MD and Council.	7, 14
Delivery of Heritage, Conservation and Biodiversity initiatives across the County having regard to the Public Sector Duty. Promotion of National Heritage Week and National Biodiversity week.	Grants Delivery Events & Exhibitions supported.	11, 13
Urban and Rural Regeneration Team		
Implement and progress projects funded through RRDF, URDF, ERDF. Continue to deliver Town Centre First plans.	Ongoing community engagement Plans devised. Part 8 approvals. Ongoing project management.	9, 17
Housing (incl Housing Capital)		
Housing		
Advance maintenance and improvement of existing social housing.	Advance Energy Retrofit Programme in accordance with targets identified and funding made available.	11

Next Steps

Human Resources, Corporate Services, City and County Libraries, Law Agent Services		
City & County Libraries		
Supporting Action	Service Plan Action	SDG
Deliver initiatives that create awareness of climate change and help reduce climate impact. Participate and promote national environmental campaigns. Provide the public with information on climate change and the environment.	Create opportunities for public engagement on climate change and the environment through enhanced book collections, online resources and in-house programming.	3, 4, 10, 11, 16
Corporate Services		
Maintenance, Upgrades and Management of Leisure Centres at Tuam & Ballinasloe. Complete a review of existing and future office accommodation needs to determine the optimal future Galway County Council office space requirements,	Energy Efficient Programmes • EXEED programme to decarbonise the Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres • Install 100kva PV panel array to the Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centre Consultants engaged to deliver an accommodation appraisal review.	3, 7, 9, 11, 12,13
Rural and Community Development and Integration and Environment		
Rural and Community Development and Integration		
To educate and raise public awareness of environmental, sustainable, climate and biodiversity issues.	Continue to support the vital work of Tidy Towns Groups and build their capacity to improve performance in the National Tidy Towns Competition and linkages in their communities.	13
Environment		
To educate and raise awareness of environmental, sustainable, climate and biodiversity issues.	Review of Litter Management Plan 2025 having regard to the Public Sector Duty. Green Schools Programme. Anti-Litter Poster Competition for all Schools.	13
Implementation of inspections in relation to litter black spots in accordance with our Waste Presentation byelaws.	Increase the number of inspections across the county and review and improve inspection methodology where necessary.	7, 13, 14, 15
To continue to provide and expand recycling services for the public including at civic amenity and bottle banks facilities.	Ensure contracts are in place to sustain these services which will have significant environmental benefits.	7,13, 14, 15

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Appendix



Appendix 1 – List of CAP Actions & Status

No.	Action	Status
GL 1.1	Continue to develop and support the Climate Action Steering Group, Climate Action Team, and Energy Team within Galway County Council. Ensure the Climate Action Unit is adequately resourced.	2024 Annual Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
GL 1.2	Build expertise within the GCC Management Team, Climate Action Steering Group, Climate Action Team, Energy Team, Climate Ambassadors, Elected Members and Staff by identifying training needs and organising relevant training.	In Progress
GL 1.3	Develop and approve annual Climate Action Implementation Plans to support delivery of Climate Action Plan.	Not Started
GL 2.1	Obtain and maintain ISO50001 Energy Management certification by Q4 2024. Establish data management system. Provide adequate funding and resources to achieve target of 51% reduction in energy-related emissions, 51% reduction in thermal emissions, and 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.	In Progress
GL 2.2	Approve and implement annual retrofit programme for GCC buildings under the SEAI Pathfinder Programme and Community Energy Grant Scheme.	In Progress
GL 2.3	Enable staff to utilise practical lower-carbon options for undertaking business travel through provision of electric bikes and vehicles, carpooling, etc. Support the uptake of remote working and online conferencing tools to reduce commuting and business travel.	In Progress
GL 2.4	Conduct feasibility study and integration of renewable alternative fuel options for Galway County Council vehicle fleet ensuring appropriate regard is had to the sustainability of sourced alternative fuels.	Not Started
GL 2.5	Prepare, approve and implement a Fleet Management Strategy in line with LA Re-Imagining Transport Study while ensuring sustainability criteria are appropriately considered during procurement processes.	Not Started
GL 2.6	Continue the programme of upgrading of public lighting within County Galway to energy efficient lighting systems while having due regard to the impact of the spectrum of light used on biodiversity.	2024 Annual Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
GL 2.7	Continue to make energy efficiency retrofits to social housing under the DHLGH-supported Energy Retrofit Programme having due regard to biodiversity and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.	2024 Annual Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
GL 3.1	Encourage and facilitate internal Climate Action initiatives and campaigns including water conservation, energy management and waste management.	In Progress
GL 3.3	Establish a baseline inventory of the embodied carbon emissions associated with the construction materials used in Galway County Council projects, such as roads, bridges, etc. Determine a feasible target for reducing the embodied carbon emissions. Implement measures to achieve the target. Where feasible, include estimated potential reductions in emissions as a result of the project in the calculation.	Not Started

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No.	Action	Status
GL 3.4	Commit that new public housing and buildings incorporate the principles of climate action in terms of design, services and amenities with careful consideration in the choice of materials, roof types (i.e. green roofs), water conservation, taking advantage of solar gain/passive housing, the provision of low-carbon and renewable energy technologies and public transport infrastructure such as bus stops and shelters as appropriate to the scale of the development.	Not Started
GL 3.5	Advance the implementation of climate-related objectives in the County Development Plan and Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy.	In Progress
GL 3.6	Review draft internal and external plans that arise during the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan and advise on the integration of climate mitigation and adaptation measures where appropriate.	2024 Annual Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
GL 3.7	Seek national guidance on the development of Carbon Budgets and Accounting for actions/objectives in GCC plans to ensure consistency with the sectoral carbon targets. Seek national guidance on long-term multi-decade sea level rise and consider as part of long-term land use planning, including in the development of the next iteration of the County Development Plan.	Not Started
GL 4.1	Establish a network of stakeholders and ensure ongoing communication. Cultivate and actively participate in partnerships with regional local authorities and public bodies, enterprise, community, voluntary sectors, third level institutions and the research community. Maximise on potential funding streams for the county and work in partnership to develop and implement Climate Action projects and initiatives. Continue to support existing projects including LEAP, CONNECTED, Cities4Forests etc.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
LN 1.1	Support farmers in the shift toward low-carbon and climate-resilient agricultural practices, including innovative farming practices such as paludiculture. Work with relevant agencies to develop and implement a joined-up awareness/knowledge transfer strategy for the agricultural and food sectors. Develop a tool kit and training programme for engagement during routine farm visits.	Not Started
LN 1.2	Work with the BIA Innovation Centre to support climate action in the food and agriculture sector.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
LN 1.3	Protect water quality and air quality by carrying out inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems, discharge licences, farms and fuel suppliers as per national requirements and as required. Support remediation and mitigation measures required to maintain or achieve good or high-quality water status in the county.	2024 Annual Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
LN 2.1	Identify priority areas for habitat restoration and protection for carbon and biodiversity benefits. Work with stakeholders including landowners and Local Authority to identify opportunities to deliver restoration. Investigate opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain investment.	In Progress

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No.	Action	Status
LN 2.2	Audit local authority land and buildings, carry out ecological/habitat surveys and highlight areas at risk (as well as areas which are thriving or providing sequestration services) and those suitable for restoration and enhanced carbon storage, community purposes or as wildlife corridors for protection through statutory plans.	Not Started
LN 2.3	Conduct a tree cover survey and devise and adopt a tree management policy that recognises the ecosystem services provided by existing woodland habitat and hedgerows and seeks to retain and support such habitats.	In Progress
LN 2.4	Implement the pesticide reduction plan for Galway County Council.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
LN 2.5	Implement a county-wide pollinator conservation initiative, creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitats based on the most up-to-date scientific advice.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
LN 2.6	Develop and implement an updated Heritage and Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and enhance local biodiversity ensuring climate change is factored into the plan's development.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
LN 2.7	Support citizen science projects to target climate-sensitive species and habitats	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
LN 3.1	Ensure all LA-led projects consider nature-based solutions.	Not Started
EB 1.1	Support renewable energy research and development at the commercial and community scale whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria.	In Progress
EB 1.2	Conduct a feasibility study to identify and assess the potential areas and sources for district heating in the county.	Not Started
EB 2.1	Assess the feasibility of a policy requiring planning applications to include an assessment of the embodied carbon emissions associated with the proposed development and options for nature-based solutions and biodiversity enhancement, using a standardised and consistent methodology.	Not Started
EB 2.2	Communicate details of case studies and guidance on the upgrade of traditional building to promote as exemplar, ensuring appropriate guidance is provided on the protection of architectural and heritage value and protected species associated with such buildings during upgrade works.	In Progress
EB 3.1	The provision of public Wastewater Treatment Plants in towns and villages that are not currently served is vital to facilitate compact and sustainable growth. Support Uisce Éireann and the national government to prioritise locations and seek funding for provision of these services.	In Progress

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No.	Action	Status
EB 3.2	Encourage the upgrade of existing residential and commercial properties to promote sustainable compact growth and regeneration having due regard to biodiversity and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.	In Progress
TR 1.1	Complete Transportation Modelling across the county based on a sustainable transport and smarter travel approach. Develop and implement Local Transportation Plans for Tuam, Athenry, Loughrea, Gort and East Galway Suburbs. Implement the adopted Ballinasloe Local Transport Plan. Complete Community Transport Studies for Headford, Clifden, Kinvara, Oughterard, Portumna and Maigh Cuilinn. Prepare traffic management plans.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
TR 1.2	Develop County Walking and Cycling Strategy.	In Progress
TR 1.3	Identify opportunities for reallocation of existing road space to promote active travel and improve public space and implement related projects.	In Progress
TR 1.4	Work with communities to identify potential active travel, greenway and public transport projects and support modal shift.	In Progress
TR 1.5	Support and promote community mobility schemes including bike share schemes, mobility hubs, bike libraries, community EV carsharing and EV charging, carpooling, and community taxis.	In Progress
TR 1.6	Design and deliver new and improved road crossings, cycle lanes and walkways giving priority to disabled users, pedestrians and cyclists.	In Progress
TR 1.7	Ensure adequate road maintenance for active travel users.	In Progress
TR 1.8	Support the Safer Routes to Schools programme and School Streets Initiative, providing education and training on cycle buses and walking buses. Investigate the feasibility of infrastructure requests from Walkability Audits and Cyclability audits carried out by Green Schools and others. Collaborate with Green Schools Travel Team to support Active Travel Initiatives including 'no-idling' campaigns and Park 'n' Stride schemes.	In Progress
TR 1.9	Expand the greenway network in the County establishing linkages with towns and villages in line with the strategic national cycle network.	In Progress
TR 1.10	Conduct a comprehensive feasibility assessment, including safety, environmental, and cost considerations, for the potential implementation of Dutch-style roundabouts within Galway County Council's transportation infrastructure.	Not Started
TR 1.11	Engage with public transport providers to support enhanced public transport outcomes including rural bus and train service expansion and service interconnectivity. Support public transport providers to estimate emission reductions resulting from increased public services.	In Progress

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No.	Action	Status
TR 2.1	Work with the Roads and Transport Dept and regional LAs/CARO to develop and implement a Regional EV Strategy. Identify locations and type required to meet relevant national targets and ensure no blackspots.	In Progress
TR 2.2	Support the roll out of EV infrastructure in the county in line with the strategy including submission of applications for ZEVl programmes, incorporation of EV infrastructure in streetscape design and requiring EV in new developments.	In Progress
CP 1.1	Support Community Action in the areas of community energy projects, travel, shopping and recycling, environmental action and food and waste including community gardens. Administer Community Climate Action Fund and support communities in the implementation of the projects.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
CP 1.2	Establish a training, information and support programme for individuals, community groups and community event organisers on Climate Action and Biodiversity. Ensure that the programme takes into account the needs of persons with disabilities, vulnerable groups and those at risk from climate change. Carry out annual training programme.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
CP 1.3	Establish network of communities to disseminate information from the DZ areas across the country (CONNECTED Project). Work in partnership with the PPN to encourage and support climate action in the community. Consider the inclusion of additional categories related to Climate Action in the Cathaoirleach Awards.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
CP 1.4	Include 'Sustainability and Climate Change' scoring on relevant grant assessments to ensure that community groups/ stakeholders consider and incorporate Climate Mitigation and Adaptation in all their grant-funded activities.	In Progress
CP 1.5	Engage with the GAA 'Green Club Programme' on sustainability and climate action projects.	In Progress
CP 1.6	Develop and Implement a Signage Strategy highlighting, educating and encouraging Climate Action.	Not Started
CP 1.7	Support the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities Program and the development and updating of Energy Master Plans.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
CP 1.8	Encourage and support low carbon events including external events requiring permissions of GCC. Develop guidelines for events and a checklist to be incorporated into event licensing.	Not Started
CP 1.9	Encourage Climate Action within Creative Arts programmes and support relevant projects.	In Progress
CP 1.10	Support businesses to become more aware of their climate responsibilities and risks, as well as the commercial opportunities arising from sustainability and evolving consumer sentiment. Support businesses to carry out energy assessments and complete sustainability plans.	In Progress

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No.	Action	Status
CP 1.11	Advance the implementation of climate-related objectives and actions in the Tourism Strategy.	Not Started
CP 1.12	Support the Green Schools initiative and enable an increase in the number of schools actively participating	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
CP 2.1	Actively seek funding through the 'EU Just Transition Fund' programme with a focus on Climate Action measures.	In Progress
CP 2.2	Develop and implement an updated Local Economic and Community Plan ensuring climate change is factored into the Plan's development.	In Progress
CE 1.1	Support circular initiatives such as prevention, reuse, repair and recycling of resources. Support the development of cooperative, community-owned and other collaborative ventures to foster more effective use and sharing of resources.	In Progress
CE 1.2	Implement a pilot project focused on reducing single-use coffee cup consumption with the aim of subsequently scaling successful strategies across the county.	In Progress
CE 1.3	Implement initiatives to continue to reduce, reuse and recycle waste across the county in partnership with the private sector e.g. increased number of public recycling bins and Civic Amenity sites, increased number of water fountains, expanded textile/glass collection.	In Progress
CE 1.4	Assess Construction & Demolition Waste Management Plans for proposed developments to ensure all potential waste streams are identified at an early stage and appropriate measures put in place to promote prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste in line with the waste hierarchy.	In Progress
CE 1.5	Investigate the potential for the reuse of waste materials from roads in new construction projects.	Not Started
CE 2.1	Support the roll out of the segregated brown bin collection systems across the County to enable recovery of biomethane in line with the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.	In Progress
CE 2.2	Identify households who currently don't have a standard waste collection service in place and determine how they are managing their waste. Inspect commercial premises to ensure compliance in relation to waste segregation and in particular food waste.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025
CE 2.3	Carry out inspections of permitted waste collectors and waste facilities and illegal waste activities and carry out enforcement action as required.	2024 Programme Completed, Ongoing 2025

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No.	Action	Status
AD 1.1	Collaborate with OPW and other relevant stakeholders in assessing the likely impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, coastal erosion and flooding, on the built environment and heritage sites. Prioritise areas for further assessment and seek funding/support to mitigate the risk. Assist CARO in the development of a register of critical infrastructure, systems and assets at risk from existing and projected climate events.	In Progress
AD 1.2	Collaborate with Government organisations to provide capital measures for identified priority areas incorporating nature-based solutions, biodiversity and water quality enhancement.	In Progress
AD 1.3	Ensure the continued incorporation of Flood Risk Management and Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plans into the spatial planning of the County, having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations. Galway County Council will carry out long term multi decadal spatial planning on flooding and sea level rise to inform settlement strategy and will seek technical advice from OPW.	In Progress
AD 1.4	Develop and implement annual Climate Adaptation Strategies for Regional and Local Roads.	In Progress
AD 1.5	Identify and implement operational measures necessary to protect critical infrastructure/equipment from climate events and develop any necessary maintenance/upgrade programmes to address climate risk.	In Progress
AD 1.6	Promote and encourage community involvement in the retrofit of SuDS in existing developments, maintaining community rain gardens, discourage hard paving in gardens and retrofit raingardens / water butt installations.	In Progress
AD 1.7	Work with the OPW and other stakeholders to identify and support Minor and Major Flood Protection and Flood Proofing Schemes throughout the county.	In Progress
AD 1.8	Support private group water schemes to identify drinking water sources vulnerable to climate change and to develop source protection or alternative sources in order to maintain water quantity and quality levels	In Progress
AD 2.1	Review Major Emergency Plan and other relevant risk management plans to ensure incorporation of up-to-date climate risk information	Not Started
AD 2.2	Identify contingency plans for climate events that have the potential to impact critical infrastructure, the failure of which would have major consequences and/or a cascading effect on other services. Prepare strategic wildfire management plan for high-risk areas. Provide clear communication to communities.	In Progress

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No.	Action	Status
AD 2.3	Review countywide low temperature (snow & frost) policies for roads and footpaths.	Not Started
AD 2.5	Capture the impact of extreme weather events by integrating existing incident recording and management systems including WIRE and SWEMS, carry out training and record incidents.	In Progress
DZ 1.1	Establish a stakeholder group within the Decarbonisation Zone, working with established community organisations already engaged in Climate Action, and ensure ongoing engagement and cooperation. Develop a Vision for the Islands	In Progress
DZ 1.2	Seek funding to retrofit all social housing within the Decarbonisation Zone.	In Progress
DZ 1.3	Facilitate and support the development of group approaches for residential and commercial energy assessments, retrofit, renewable heating, and solar installation both within and outside the Decarbonisation Zone. Support Gníomhaireacht Fuinnimh an Iarthar (GFI) Energy Agency.	In Progress
DZ 1.4	Support Uisce Éireann to identify baseline emissions related to water delivery and treatment, update baseline emissions assessment and identify opportunities to reduce associated emissions. Assess risks related to drought conditions.	Not Started
DZ 1.5	Improve understanding of emissions related to agriculture and LULUCF and update baseline emissions assessment. (Note: Some of the emissions data related to agriculture and LULUCF in the Decarbonisation Zone is based on national averages. The actual emissions may lower due to the nature of farming practices in this region).	Not Started
DZ 1.6	Assess the feasibility of providing public drinking water fountains on the three islands.	In Progress
DZ 1.7	Work with the local community to identify potential projects to support active travel including 'bike libraries', 'bike shelters', charging facilities, safety measures, and seek funding for implementation.	In Progress
DZ 1.8	Explore opportunities for the development of electric car sharing schemes and the provision of (portable) electric chargers at Ros a' Mhíl Ferry Port and Connemara airport.	In Progress
DZ 1.9	Support the identification and development of appropriate community energy facilities. Investigate the potential for developing the unused landfill site on the islands into a community owned solar farm.	In Progress
DZ 1.10	Support research projects and national / EU funding applications related to low emission alternatives for ferry and air travel.	In Progress

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No.	Action	Status
DZ 1.11	Support the identification and development of appropriate opportunities related to Microgrid Options with Battery Storage.	In Progress
DZ 1.12	Identify barriers to reducing emissions within Decarbonisation Zone and identify appropriate policy objectives related to renewable energy generation for consideration in the next iteration of the County Development Plan.	Not Started
DZ 1.13	Investigate potential of increasing the public bus service.	Not Started
DZ 1.14	Investigate feasibility of composting/ Anaerobic Digestion on Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr.	In Progress
DZ 1.15	Ensure that they are aligned with the conservation objectives for the Árainn (Inis Mór) Island SAC, Inishmann Island SAC, Inisheer Island SAC and Árainn (Inis Mór) SPA	In Progress