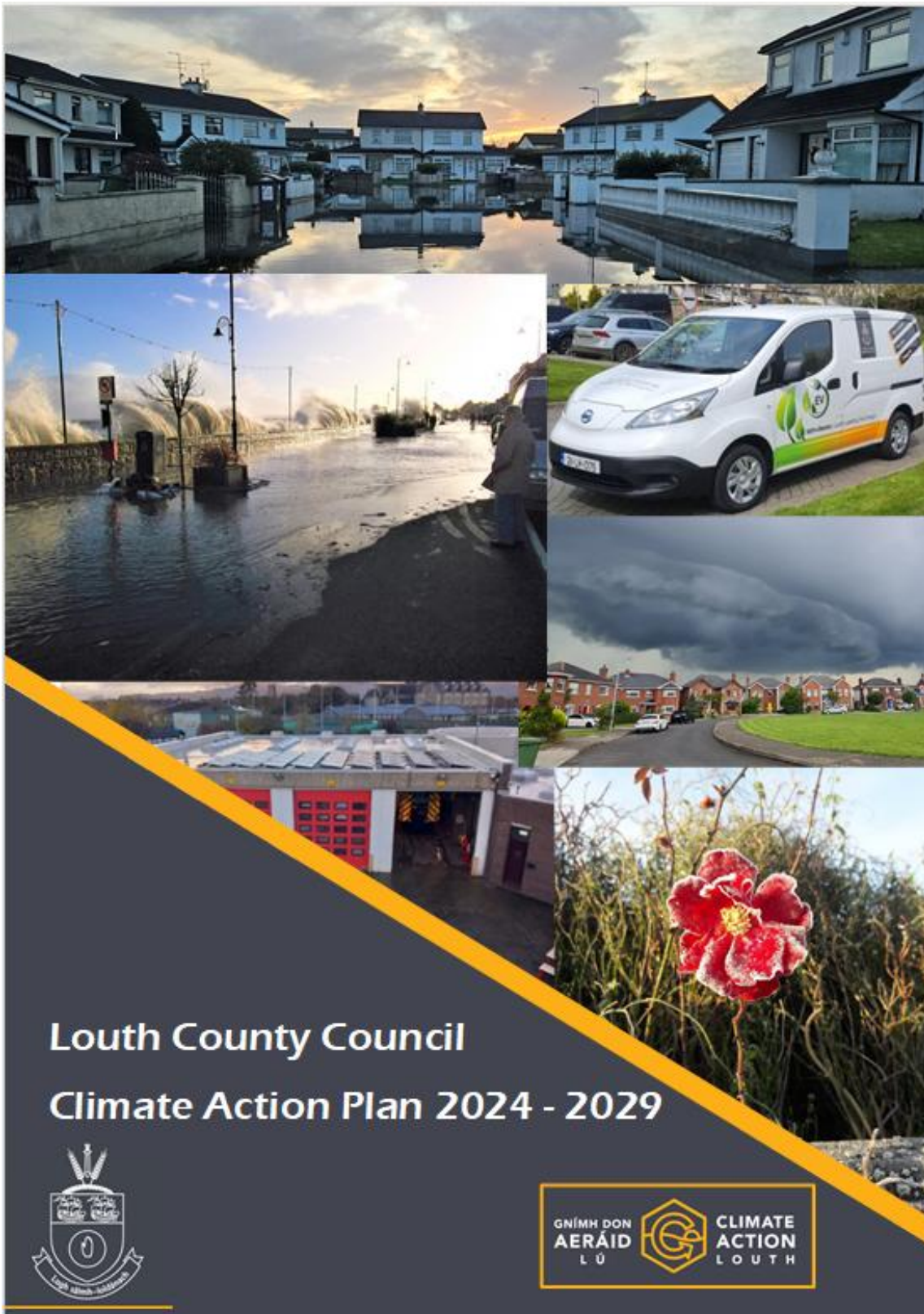


Louth County Council Climate Action Plan Implementation Report for Elected Members & Stakeholders



Louth County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029



Report 2025

Introduction

This is the first progress report of the Louth County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. This progress report reflects the plan implementation period from January 2025 to December 2025. This is in line with the annual milestone of the adoption of the plan by elected members of Louth County Council in February of 2024.

Data and information contained within this report offer an accurate and transparent picture of progress in the first year of the plan implementation against the ambition of the plan which is aligned to the Government's National Climate Objective to achieve the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.

Methodology and Format of Report

The format of this report is informed by the reporting requirements for Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAP), the Louth County Council LACAP, recommendations of broader sustainability reporting frameworks^[1] and alignment with Agenda 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Accordingly, this report provides progress updates covering actions of the LACAP delivered and commenced in 2025 and presents information in line with the following strategic commitments:

Governance & Leadership

Oversight and procedural aspects of integrating climate related matters into governance processes, business and operational models and organisational and local policy instruments.

Climate Mitigation Targets

Progress on delivering prescribed emission reduction targets established by national climate policy for all public sector entities in line with reporting methodology of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

Climate Adaptation Goals

Measures to plan for and reduce vulnerability of local authority services and communities to climate change impacts, minimise risks and costs and protect lives and property by building resilience into natural and human systems.

Delivery across Services

The diverse range of services and functions perform climate action through various policy areas, to support, facilitate and enable government departments, agencies and stakeholders to meet their climate goals at the local level and influence the value chain through Green Public Procurement.

Community Engagement & Activation

Actions that support community engagement, activity and capacity to build resilience to climate change impacts, reduce energy consumption and emissions and protect, restore and/or enhance biodiversity and work to achieve the objectives of the Decarbonising Zone(s) (DZ).

¹ Including Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Frameworks and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) standards.

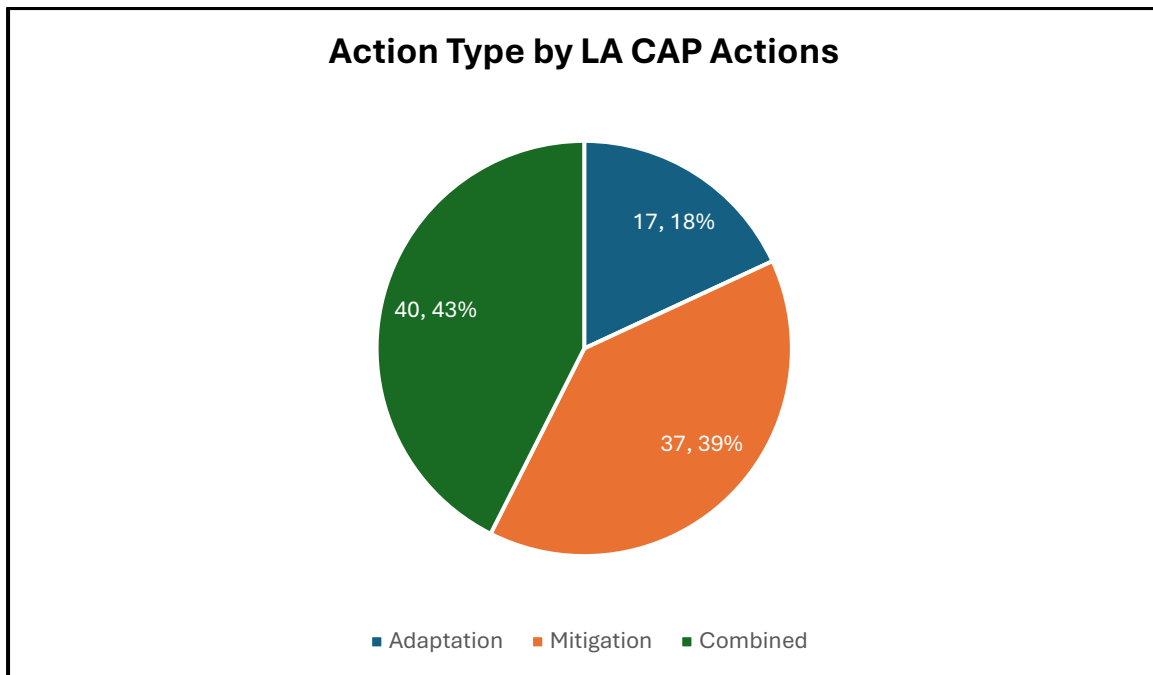
The report updates on progress of delivering actions pursued in 2025 from various themes of the plan. As part of this also, case studies are provided to highlight the value of actions being undertaken and how they are manifesting ‘on the ground’.

Climate Action Plan Overview

The Climate Action Plan contains **94** actions across 6 thematic areas with the following action distribution across the themes:



Action Type Breakdown is as follows:



Below is a summary table of actions colour-coded by progress levels. This table is a summary of the Microsoft Excel tracking document with a complete list of all actions and their associated detail.

| Theme | Complete | In progress | Due to start In 2026 | Delayed |
|--|------------|-------------|----------------------|----------|
| Governance and Leadership | 6 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Built Environment & Transport | 3 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure | 2 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| Communities: Resilience and Transition | 2 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Sustainability and resource management | 4 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| DZ | 1 | 10 | 5 | 0 |
| Total | 18 | 68 | 8 | 0 |
| % progress of total | 19% | 72% | 9% | |

Theme 1: Governance and Leadership

| Actions | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------|--|
| Directorate | Number | Progress | Action |
| Organisational Development | GL 1 | 2 | Louth County Council will maintain a Climate Action Steering Group which will guide implementation of the Climate Action Plan |
| Organisational Development | GL 2 | 2 | Louth County Council will maintain a Climate Action Team for the duration of this plan |
| Organisational Development | GL 3 | 2 | Louth County Council will fully embrace this plan as a route to meet its 51% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. This will be achieved by ensuring the organisational structures within the local authority allow all directorates to incorporate the appropriate climate action required into their team plans and PDPs. |
| Organisational Development | GL 4 | 2 | Louth County Council will fully incorporate the 51% reduction in carbon emissions, as required under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (amendment) Act 2021, into the corporate plan, Annual Service Delivery Plan, Municipal district plans and Local area Plans. |
| Organisational Development | GL 5 | 1 | Establish robust reporting on all climate national action targets applying to Louth County council and internal targets generated through the Local authority Climate Action Plan process. |
| Organisational Development | GL 6 | 2 | Using Louth County Council's robust network of community engagement mechanisms foster a stronger awareness of climate action within the county. |
| Support Services | GL7 | 1 | Develop robust Green Public Procurement practices specific to Louth Council and incorporate these into all procurement exercises carried out by the local authority. |
| Organisational Development | GL 8 | 2 | Incorporate UN sustainability goals into the workings of Louth County Council. These 17 goals will enhance the climate ambitions of Louth County Council. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | GL 9 | 1 | Establish a mechanism to update Louth County Council's Major Emergency Management plan to incorporate the latest climate-related extreme weather predictions. This will lead to the plan being a living document. |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|--|
| Organisational Development | GL 10 | 2 | Fully engage with the EU Mission, adaptation to Climate Change and be an exemplar region within the EU for climate adaptation |
| Organisational Development | GL 11 | 1 | Develop a full spatially led tier three climate risk assessment and adaption plan for County Louth. |
| Organisational Development | GL 12 | 2 | All Staff and Elected Member to receive Climate Action training relevant to their role. |
| Organisational Development | GL 13 | 2 | Increase participation in SEAI Pathfinder programme for public sector whilst promoting - through control or influence, as appropriate - project adherence to planning and environmental protection criteria. |
| Organisational Development | GL 14 | 2 | Implement plan for Dundalk & Blackrock as a Decarbonising Zone |
| Organisational Development | GL 15 | 2 | Encourage online meetings and training to reduce business milage |
| Organisational Development | GL 16 | 1 | Develop a communications strategy for Climate Action for Louth County Council |
| Organisational Development | GL 17 | 1 | Adhere to commitments in the Local Authority Climate Action Charter |

Theme 2: Built Environment & Transport

| Actions | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------|--|
| Directorate | Number | Progress | Action |
| Social Development | BEI 1 | 2 | Demonstrate Leadership in the National Retrofitting Scheme for private homes across the county. By retrofitting our council housing stock, promoting best practice examples from within the county and providing information on accessing funding supports to interested members of the public. Promote the need to adhere to environmental protection requirements during retrofit projects, including the need to appropriately conserve built heritage. |
| Strategic Economic Development | BEI 2 | 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. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | BEI 3 | 2 | Fully Deliver the National Sustainable Mobility Policy's Pathfinder projects for Dundalk and Drogheda having due regard to heritage protection requirements. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | BEI 4 | 2 | Deliver additional active travel projects within the county to further develop walking and cycling as an alternative to private car use. Ensure supported active travel development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology. |
| Organisational Development | BEI 5 | 1 | Develop a fleet usage policy for Louth County Council. This policy is to allow for decarbonising of the LCC fleet by examining options around vehicle usage, fuel types, ownership or hire options, service continuity, and centralised procurement. Sustainably decarbonise the Louth County Council fleet to the maximum allowable level, while maintaining service delivery by enacting the recommendations from the fleet usage policy |
| Social Development | BEI 6 | 2 | Deliver a housing sustainable policy for Louth County Council. Issues to be considered to include guidance for green construction practises, sustainable urban drainage, biodiversity and resources required to deliver enhanced green ambitions. |

| | | | |
|---|--------|---|---|
| Placemaking & Physical Development | BEI 7 | 2 | Build on Louth's leading position by decarbonising the public Lighting in County Louth by completing the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | BEI 8 | 2 | Development of EV charging infrastructure plan for Louth. Ensure such development promotes climate action co-benefits and does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | BEI 9 | 2 | Develop staff smarter travel plan -- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electric bikes • e-scooters • walking |
| Strategic Economic Development | BEI 10 | 2 | Climate Impact Risk Assessment on Louth County Council owned heritage sites |
| Organisational Development | BEI 11 | 2 | Climate Impact Risk Assessment on Louth County Council owned buildings |
| Organisational Development | BEI 12 | 2 | Complete annual reporting requirements to SEAI through the National Energy Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) systems |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | BEI 13 | 1 | Implement cycling strategies in Louth, Ensure the cycling strategies have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | BEI 14 | 1 | Develop a walking strategy for Louth |
| Strategic Economic Development | BEI 15 | 2 | Develop a surface water drainage plan for Louth for agglomerations greater than 500PE |

Theme 3: Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure

| Actions | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|---|
| Directorate | Number | Progress | Action |
| Organisational Development | NEGI 1 | 1 | Support the full delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth 2021 – 2026 |
| Organisational Development | NEGI 2 | 2 | Develop a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth in line with the new national Biodiversity plan in accordance to the guidelines set out by the Heritage Council. This plan shall have a focus on use/promotion of native species. |
| Organisational Development | NEGI 3 | 2 | Provide support to add value to the green schools program through funding if available and outreach projects. |
| Organisational Development | NEGI 4 | 2 | Enact all local authority relevant actions in Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2027 |
| Organisational Development | NEGI 5 | 2 | Support existing citizen science initiatives through the National Biodiversity Data Centre biodiversity recording through training of public/stakeholders and publicising schemes and resources. |

| | | | |
|---|---------|---|--|
| Placemaking & Physical Development | NEGI 6 | 2 | Develop and implement a Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and integrated rainwater management protocol for both Council and private sector projects. A protocol for NBS will address the following: I. Part 8 and Section 177AE 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' – put in a plan and resource taking in charge schemes.. iii. Plan and resource maintenance iv. Build in education and awareness for public and elected members. v. Application of water sensitive urban design concepts vi. Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance for watercourses to be considered as part of relevant council policy vii. Environmental protection requirements relating to projects involving the development of NBS. |
| Strategic Economic Development | NEGI 7 | 1 | Set up and run a Biodiversity and Heritage forum as per the requirements of the Heritage Council to deliver feedback into local authority climate action. |
| Strategic Economic Development | NEGI 8 | 3 | Update Fire management plan for Cooley Mountains. Ecological expertise shall be sought during plan updating. The plan shall have due regard to the need to appropriately protect important habitats. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | NEGI 9 | 2 | Develop a Coastal protection plan for Louth. Ensure the plan has due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value. |
| Organisational Development | NEGI 10 | 2 | Develop a Carbon sequestration plan for Louth whilst taking measures to promote the use of native plant species over non-natives, as appropriate. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | NEGI 11 | 2 | Progress Flood defence schemes Dundalk-Ardee Flood relief and Drogheda & Baltray flood relief scheme whilst having appropriate regard to environmental protection |

| | | | |
|---|---------|---|--|
| | | | requirements associated with flood resilience development. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | NEGI 12 | 2 | Implement Louth County Council hedgerow and trees policy. Ensure that the policy promotes the use of native species over non-natives and has due regard for water quality and soil stability issues. |
| Organisational Development | NEGI 13 | 2 | Develop Louth County Wetland Action Plan. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | NEGI 14 | 2 | Ensure Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) principles are implemented in Louth County Council works and conditioned, as appropriate, in grants of planning permission. Having due regard to promoting nature-based solutions, protection of biodiversity and avoidance of habitat fragmentation. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | NEGI 15 | 2 | Work with LAWPRO to develop flood risk assessments for Rivers in Louth |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | NEGI 16 | 2 | Develop a pesticide use policy & procedure for Louth County Council, ensuring these substances are only used to a degree and an extent that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites. |
| Organisational Development | NEGI 17 | 2 | Deliver Ramparts River Rejuvenation project |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---|--|
| Organisational Development | NEGI 18 | 2 | Alien invasive species plan for Louth, This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage and prevent the spread of invasive species. |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---|--|

Theme 4: Communities: Resilience and Transition

| Actions | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Directorate | Number | Progress | Action |
| Organisational Development | CRT 1 | 2 | Access best practice information from the EU Mission, Adaptation to Climate Change, to strengthen Louth County Council's response to extreme weather events |
| Social Development | CRT 2 | 2 | Energise the creative & arts sector to inspire behavioural change and positive climate action by implementing the Creative Ireland Plan |
| Organisational Development | CRT 3 | 2 | Develop an allotments and community gardens strategy for Louth County Council that includes learnings from the Louth Urban Food sanctuary project. |
| Placemaking & Physical Development | CRT 4 | 2 | Strengthen the incorporation of Flood Risk Management and Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plans into the spatial planning for County Louth to meet the requirements of the EU Floods Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and to promote a climate resilient County |
| Organisational Development | CRT 5 | 2 | Create partnerships with third-level education institutions such as DKIT and the DCU climate change centre to explore and develop novel climate action ideas, specific to county Louth |
| Organisational Development | CRT 6 | 2 | To be a focal point and knowledge hub for local communities and citizens of Louth wishing to further their climate actions. Host information material and be available to answer queries and assist where resources allow. Carry out climate literacy events throughout each year |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---|---|
| Organisational Development | CRT 7 | 1 | 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 |
| Organisational Development | CRT 8 | 2 | Improve Circular Economy Awareness among the people and business of Louth |
| Strategic Economic Development | CRT 9 | 2 | Promote Sustainable tourism initiatives for Louth |
| Social Development | CRT 10 | 1 | Create digital hub for Climate Action information and advice |
| Organisational Development | CRT 11 | 2 | Support development of Sustainable Energy Communities |
| Strategic Economic Development | CRT 12 | 2 | Promote connectivity to allow for remote working and reduce commuting |
| Strategic Economic Development | CRT 13 | 2 | Continue LEO Green for Business programme |
| Organisational Development | CRT 14 | 2 | Risk assessment to identify communities vulnerable to Climate Impacts |
| Organisational Development | CRT 15 | 2 | Guided by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the GAA and CCMA, towards working together on sustainability and climate action projects, engage with the 'Green Club Programme' through a nominated lead, working with the CARO and GAA, in the promotion and support of projects by participating clubs, to meet the objectives, and during key phases, of the programme to 2029 |
| Organisational Development | CRT 16 | 3 | Develop a 'Just Transition' plan for Louth |

Theme 6: Sustainability and resource management

| Actions | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|--|
| Directorate | Number | Progress | Action |
| Organisational Development | SRM 1 | 2 | Apply a protocol to enable a standard for 'Climate Proofing' including "water sensitive urban design" for all local authority led capital plans, purchases and investments for example; projects funded under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme, Active Travel Scheme, Urban Regeneration and Development Fund etc |
| Organisational Development | SRM 2 | 3 | Produce a Sustainability protocol for Louth County Council events; to ensure climate-proofing. |
| Organisational Development | SRM 3 | 2 | Deliver a series of energy efficiency and management workshops for small and medium businesses in County Louth to help them meet their sectorial targets under the nation's decarbonising plan |
| Organisational Development | SRM 4 | 1 | Fully support and resource the Louth County Council energy and Facilities team to continue to work towards our 51% carbon reduction by 2030 targets. |
| Organisational Development | SRM 5 | 1 | Ensure that Louth County Council meets the requirements of Directive 2010/31/EU. The energy performance of buildings (recast) |
| Organisational Development | SRM 6 | 2 | Develop a Clean Energy Policy for County Louth. This is to define the local authority's role in supporting sustainable green energy expansion and assess the current and emerging technologies |
| Organisational Development | SRM 7 | 2 | Support local level renewable energy and micro generation projects within county Louth and cooperate with neighbouring regions where opportunities are identified. Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - project accordance with planning and environmental protection requirements |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---|---|
| Organisational Development | SRM 8 | 2 | Support and fully implement the Local authority actions contained within the upcoming National Waste Action and Management Plans for a Circular Economy |
| Organisational Development | SRM 9 | 2 | Support civic amenity sites to implement best practice circular economy initiatives whilst ensuring all supported initiatives accord with the provision of the Waste Management Act and do not lead to adverse environmental impacts or nuisance. |
| Organisational Development | SRM 10 | 1 | Partner on 'Repairmystuff.ie' |
| Organisational Development | SRM 11 | 2 | Promote resource efficiency in Group Water Schemes |
| Organisational Development | SRM 12 | 1 | Support and promote 're-turn' scheme |

Theme 7: Decarbonising Zone

| Actions | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|---|
| Directorate | Number | Progress | Action |
| Organisational Development | DZ 1 | 2 | Bring together a specific decarbonisation zone working group comprising the main stakeholders from the public and private sectors. |
| Organisational Development | DZ 2 | 2 | Identify a specific list of opportunities to deliver detailed carbon reduction projects for the DZ, ensuring integrated environmental protection requirements are appropriately considered. |
| Organisational Development | DZ 3 | 3 | Develop a voluntary climate action charter for businesses, community groups, state bodies and members of the public to sign and adopt |
| Organisational Development | DZ 4 | 3 | Develop and roll out a comprehensive communication strategy for the Dundalk Blackrock DZ and update this plan annually |
| Organisational Development | DZ 5 | 1 | Develop an enhanced smarter mobility strategy for the DZ to focus on increasing the use of electric modes of transport, having due regard to environmental sensitivities including sensitive human receptors, water quality, biodiversity, European sites, and available grid capacity. |
| Organisational Development | DZ 6 | 3 | Develop and pilot an anti-idling campaign |
| Organisational Development | DZ 7 | 3 | Produce a community map highlighting the walking and cycling access routes within the DZ |
| Organisational Development | DZ 8 | 2 | Promote and celebrate exemplar climate action projects within the DZ |
| Organisational Development | DZ 9 | 3 | Engage with and promote the DKIT CREDIT Technology Gateway. |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|---|
| Organisational Development | DZ 10 | 2 | Promote the best practice examples and learnings from the Dundalk Blackrock DZ to the wider county with the aim of rolling out these actions to other towns within Louth. |
| Organisational Development | DZ 11 | 2 | Enhance the biodiversity value of the green and blue spaces within the DZ through nature-based solutions to provide additional ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, amenity areas and clean water, having due regard for planning and development policy and environmental protection considerations during the masterplanning and development process. |
| Organisational Development | DZ 12 | 2 | Support the development of new sustainable energy committees within the DZ and provide bridging finance to allow these SCEs to complete energy master plans. |
| Organisational Development | DZ 13 | 2 | Examine the potential of maximising district heating opportunities within the DZ and support the implementation of best practice as recommended by SEAI. Raise awareness of the opportunities and benefits presented by district heating. Appropriate regard shall be had to planning and environmental protection requirements when investigating and progressing any development projects supported by this action. |
| Organisational Development | DZ 14 | 2 | Build on the Green for Business support from the LEO to develop a regional leading ecosystem of sustainable business practices where new green markets and products are prioritised |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|---|
| Organisational Development | DZ 15 | 2 | Support the establishment of renewable energy projects, small, medium and large, that will contribute to the overall goals of DZ. Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - project accordance with planning and environmental protection requirements. |
| Organisational Development | DZ 16 | 2 | Create Reporting Structure to communicate progress |

2025 Climate Case Studies

Case Study 1.

To fully deliver the action GL6 listed below, the climate action team organised and coordinated Louth's second official climate action week.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------|---|
| Organisational Development | GL 6 | 2 | Using Louth County Council's robust network of community engagement mechanisms foster a stronger awareness of climate action within the county. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------|---|

Climate Action Week
October 13th-19th

MONDAY OCT 13

- Dundalk Credit Union event in DKIT, encouraging students to use reusable cups.
- 11am: Online School Talk with Dr Paul Fisher, ESA Climate Office.
- 12pm: LEO Webinar - Businesses Adapting to Climate Change.
- Rathmullan, Drogheda Community Litter Pick.
- Announcement of winners of SDG Artwork Competition and display of all posters in Dundalk Library.

TUESDAY OCT 14

- 10.30am-12.30pm: Age-Friendly Event in Ardara Library.
- School Webinars with Dundalk Town Scientist, Dr Niamh Shaw.
- 9.45am: Primary School (1st-3rd Class).
- 11am: Primary School (4th-6th Class).
- 2pm: Secondary School (1st-2nd Years).

WEDNESDAY OCT 15

- 8am-10am: Dundalk Credit Union and Dundalk Tidy Towns Litter Pick in St Helena's Park and Ice House Hill Park.
- 2pm: CODEMA Awareness Event in Ardoo Library.
- Louth in Bloom Awards.

THURSDAY OCT 16

- 11am: Climate Awareness Roadshow at Market House, Dundalk.
- 7pm: Sustainable Energy Communities Launch, Dundalk.
- SDG Artwork Competition Prize-Giving.

FRIDAY OCT 17

- 11am: Workshop at Muirhevismor Community Gardens with Roisin Cotter, open to the public and allotment holders.
- 11.30am: LAIT Beach Clean-up at Port Beach.
- Halloween Costume Swap at Dundalk Library.

SATURDAY OCT 18

- 2pm-3.30pm: Circular Economy Workshop at Dundalk Library.
- 2pm: Story Time (Climate/Environment) at Dundalk Library.

SUNDAY OCT 19

- 12pm-3pm: Interactive Walk with Dundalk Town Scientist, Dr Niamh Shaw, followed by a reception in Dundalk Credit Union's Community Building.

Climate Action Week
October 13th-19th

Louth County Council's Climate Action Team invites you to participate in a morning of events to celebrate Climate Action Week 2025. Please note that these events are only open to Elected Members and Louth County Council officials.

Where: St Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, A91 EW81.
When: Wednesday, 15th October at 9.30am.
Description: Showcase of the recently completed Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS), designed to manage rainwater and promote environmental sustainability.

Where: Louth County Council Dog Pound, Droimiskin, A91 D680.
When: Wednesday, 15th October at 11am.
Description: A visit to review the sustainability and energy-efficient measures implemented at the facility, showcasing efforts to reduce environmental impact. Tea/coffee/refreshments will also be served to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Louth County Council Dog Pound.

CLIMAAX
climate ready regions

CLIMAAX RISK ASSESSMENT LUNCH TIME WEBINAR

Join Louth County Council and Tipperary County Council for a fun/learn webinar on the CLIMAAX risk assessment project.

When: 1st - 2nd Tuesday 14th of October
Where: Microsoft Teams
PLEASE NOTE This is a closed event for Local Authority staff ONLY

The CLIMAAX project is an EU pilot climate risk assessment project. It is delivering county-level assessments for each of the regions across the EU, and we will learn from EU and Local data have been used to assess climate risk at County level in Ireland.

Agenda

- An overview of the National Climate Risk assessment by Katherine Droney of the EPS.
- Grant Thornton will give an overview of the findings of phase one of the project for County Louth.
- KPMG will then talk about the second and third phase plans for County Tipperary.
- Questions.

A part of National Climate Action Week 2025

Climate Action Week
13th - 19th October 2025

Swift Action for Climate

Supporting Climate Resilience for Nature Webinar for Local Authority Staff

12-1pm, Tuesday 14th October 2025

For the full programme of in-person & on-line events see www.climateactionweek.ie

Partners: Comhairle Contae Louth, Comhairle Contae Laois, NPWS, An Chomhairle Oidhreachta, BirdWatch Ireland, The Heritage Council.

Town Scientist presents

Dundalk, McClintock & My Arctic Journey

A FREE walk and talk with Dr. Niamh Shaw, sharing her Arctic expedition while honouring Dundalk's own polar explorer, Sir Leopold McClintock

Sunday Oct 19th
55 Clonbrassil St, Dundalk
Guided Walk with Niamh, 12pm
Talk from Niamh, 1pm

Book Now: <http://bit.ly/4mCmk3P>

BEACH CLEAN

OCTOBER 17, 2025 | AT 11:30 AM

PORT BEACH CLOGHERHEAD

JOIN THE INTEGRATION TEAM FOR A SPECIAL BEACH CLEAN-UP EVENT CELEBRATING UNITY, CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE STRENGTH OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Email: integration@louthco.ie to register your interest

Transport Provided

Sunday Oct 19th
55 Clonbrassil St, Dundalk
Guided Walk with Niamh, 12pm
Talk from Niamh, 1pm

Case Study 2.

Louth County Council were awarded funding during 2025 from the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, through the HORIZON funded CLIMAAX project. This project will deliver on action GL11 by delivering a climate risk assessment for Louth.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|---|---|
| Organisational Development | GL 11 | 1 | Develop a full spatially led tier three climate risk assessment and adaption plan for County Louth. |
|----------------------------|-------|---|---|


Deliverable Phase 1


Deliverable Phase 1


Deliverable Phase 1



CLIMAAX
climate ready regions

Deliverable Phase 1 – Climate Risk Assessment
Applying the CLIMAAX Framework to County Louth, Ireland
County Louth, Ireland
Version 1.0 | August 2025

HORIZON MSES 2021-CLIMA-02-01: Development of climate change risk assessments in European regions and communities based on a transparent and harmonised Climate Risk Assessment approach

Funded by
 the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101019364. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (ECIEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for errors.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Louth is a coastal county in the north-east of Ireland. It is the smallest county in Ireland by area but is the 2nd most densely populated. As of the 2022 census, Louth became just the 5th county to recover its pre-pandemic 1981 population level (the other counties being Dublin, Wicklow, Meath, and Kildare, indicative of the rapidly growing population of the commuter belt around Dublin City).¹ The coastal areas of the county are particularly vulnerable to flooding and storm surges during the winter months, and significant flood defences have been constructed along Donagh Bay. With 51% of the county's population living within 5km of the coast, LCAS identified river and coastal flooding as the primary environmental risks to the county.² Louth has experienced severe wind events in the past, including fatalities and widespread damage. Storm Eowyn³ in 2025 brought gusts of up to 148 km/h, causing widespread power outages, water supply disruptions, and road blockages due to fallen trees. Heatwaves, droughts, and fires are becoming increasingly relevant. June 2023 was the warmest month on record in Ireland, with Louth particularly affected, experiencing over 20 consecutive days of drought in some areas.⁴ Although snow and cold spells are projected to become less frequent due to climate change, they still pose significant risks. Events like Storm Emma⁵ in 2018 and the 2010 cold spell caused widespread road closures, burst pipes, and structural damage to homes.⁶



Figure 1.1 Map of County Louth and surrounding population clusters.

¹ <https://cra.gov.ie/>
² <https://www.louth.ie/2022/06/06/louth-county-climate-change-risk-assessment/>
³ <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2025/06/06/storm-eowyn/>
⁴ <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2023/06/06/ireland-warmest-june-on-record-2023/>
⁵ <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2018/01/06/storm-emma/>
⁶ <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2010/02/06/cold-spring-2010/>

2.3.2.1 Hazard assessment

A wind hazard is defined through the CLIMAAX framework as the maximum 3-second wind gust during a storm. The assessment uses Historical storm footprints (1979–2021) and Synthetic storm footprints (1986–2011) from the Copernicus COS. These datasets provide maps of wind gust intensity over a 72-hour period. Historical data shows what has happened in the past, while synthetic storms are physically realistic and plausible events that could happen in the present day. These synthetic storms are useful for creating a larger picture of possible events that could affect a certain area.



Figure 2.12 Windstorm Storm Ophelia 2017 across the region. This map explains the maximum 3-second wind gust speeds generated by Storm Ophelia in a specific region. The colours on the map show the wind speed in metres per second (m/s). The yellow and light green areas indicate the strongest winds, while the purple and darker areas show where the winds were not as powerful.

The hazard assessment allows for the view of the historical storm Ophelia across the Louth region, wind speed data from Storm Ophelia is visualised on the map, which shows maximum wind gusts exceeding 21 m/s.⁶⁶

2.3.2.2 Risk assessment

The risk assessment combines hazard, exposure, and vulnerability to estimate damages from a windstorm. By integrating these three components, the workflow can generate detailed damage maps and cost estimates for a storm event.

However, this analysis is subject to various limitations. Vulnerability curves are generalised representations of building types and may not fully capture the diversity of the local building stock. Economic damage estimates are derived from maximum damage values adjusted at the national GDP level, which may not reflect actual replacement or repair costs in specific communities. The results have not been validated against insurance claims or observed loss data, which would provide a more robust benchmark for accuracy. In addition, the scope of the assessment is limited to structural damages, excluding potential losses to infrastructure, agriculture, or indirect economic impacts. Finally, as the analysis is based on a single event, Storm Ophelia, the results may not represent the full range of possible storm impacts.

⁶⁶ Output of the windstorm CLIMAAX workflow


Deliverable Phase 1


Deliverable Phase 1


Deliverable Phase 1

Case study 3.

Louth County Council has continued to lead in the area of sustainable transport provision. Action DZ5 has been completed by the work of the Active Travel team in LCC. The development of the Pilot Mobility hubs project has been a significant driver in this area.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|--|
| Organisational Development | DZ 5 | 1 Develop an enhanced smarter mobility strategy for the DZ to focus on increasing the use of electric modes of transport, having due regard to environmental sensitivities including sensitive human receptors, water quality, biodiversity, European sites, and available grid capacity. |
|-----------------------------------|------|--|

Dundalk set for major transport shake-up with 41 new mobility hubs



Proposed new mobility hubs are aimed at developing more sustainable and active travel options. Photo: Stock Image.

Olivia Ryan

Mon 9 Feb 2026 at 11:00



Louth County Council has announced plans to install 41 new mobility hubs across

