

Monaghan County Council
Climate Action Plan (2024-2029)

**Year 2 Implementation Report (2025)
for Elected Members & Stakeholders**

April 2026 Full Council Meeting



Executive Summary

Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan – Year 2 Progress (2025)

This Executive Summary highlights progress made by the Council during Year 2 of implementing its Climate Action Plan (2024–2029). It reflects how climate action is being embedded across the organisation, delivered through services, and supported by strong governance and community engagement.

1. Progress with Actions

Good progress continues to be made in delivering the Climate Action Plan across both the county and the Decarbonisation Zone. By the end of Year 2:

- Two thirds of all actions are now completed, demonstrating steady year-on-year improvement.
- A large proportion of completed actions are recurring annual actions, meaning they are now embedded into everyday Council operations.
- The number of actions not yet started has reduced significantly, showing that climate action is increasingly integrated across services rather than treated as a standalone programme.

Overall, delivery has accelerated compared to Year 1, with climate considerations becoming a routine part of decision-making and service delivery.

2. Governance & Leadership: Council-Wide Climate Action Team

Strong governance and leadership continue to underpin delivery of the Climate Action Plan.

- Climate action is led at Senior Management Team level, ensuring organisational commitment and accountability.
- A Council-Wide Climate Action Team, with representatives from all service areas, drives implementation across the organisation.
- Dedicated roles within the Climate Action Unit, supported by national funding, coordinate delivery, monitor progress, and report on performance.
- Elected Members play a key leadership role through the Climate & Environment SPC, supporting oversight, policy alignment and ambition.

Regular Climate Action Team meetings and shared learning initiatives, such as site visits and expert engagement, help build capacity and maintain momentum across departments.

3. Climate Mitigation: Energy Efficiency & Fossil Fuel Emissions

Progress towards the 2030 Targets

The Council continues to make progress toward its 2030 climate mitigation targets of improving energy efficiency by 50% and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 51%.

- Energy efficiency performance remains strong overall, with recent results highlighting the importance of maintaining momentum through continued investment in building upgrades and Solar PV installation.
- Fossil fuel emissions remain above the required trajectory, reflecting increased activity levels, building stock expansion, and fleet demands.
- Key pathfinder projects, particularly the decarbonisation of major facilities such as the Monaghan Leisure Centre, will deliver some of the most significant emissions reductions.
- Transition measures underway within fleet, including increased use of HVO fuel and electric vehicles, are expected to positively influence future emissions reporting.

The Council has established a solid foundation, but continued focus on retrofit, renewable energy and fleet decarbonisation will be essential to meeting the 2030 targets.

4. Climate Adaptation: Building Resilience to Severe Weather

Climate adaptation remains a priority as the impacts of severe weather events become more frequent.

- Emergency planning and flood response arrangements continue to be reviewed and tested through Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) meetings and emergency plan activations.
- Significant progress has been made through drainage and road maintenance programmes across all Municipal Districts, directly reducing surface-water flooding risks and improving road resilience.
- Nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are now embedded in planning policy through the County Development Plan, ensuring new development is more climate-resilient by design.
- Transport infrastructure maintenance is increasingly informed by future climate risk, supporting safer and more reliable connectivity during severe weather events.

These actions strengthen the Council's ability to respond to climate impacts while protecting communities, infrastructure and services.

5. Examples of Delivery Across Services

Climate action is being delivered on the ground through a wide range of Council services:

Active Travel

Investment in greenways, pedestrian bridges and active travel infrastructure is improving connectivity, encouraging walking and cycling, and reducing car dependency.

Social Housing

Significant progress continues in retrofitting existing homes and delivering high-efficiency new builds. Over half of the Council's social housing stock now achieves a BER rating of B2 or higher, reducing emissions, energy costs and fuel poverty.

Regeneration

Programmes such as the Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant are supporting the reuse of empty and derelict buildings, one of the most carbon-efficient forms of development, while revitalising towns and villages.

Green Enterprise & SME Support

Through Local Enterprise Office initiatives businesses are being supported to improve energy efficiency, access green grants and build long-term economic resilience.

6. Community Engagement & Activation

Community involvement remains central to successful climate action.

- The Community Climate Action Programme continues to fund and support local groups delivering practical, community-led climate projects across the county.
- Strong demand for funding demonstrates a high level of interest and commitment from communities to play an active role in climate action.
- Climate Action Week 2025 engaged communities, schools, farmers & businesses through a programme of events focused on biodiversity, nature-based solutions and everyday climate action.

These initiatives help translate policy into practical action, building local ownership and strengthening climate awareness across the county.

Conclusion

The Year 2 implementation report demonstrates that meaningful progress is being made. Climate action is increasingly embedded across the organisation, delivering environmental benefits while supporting resilient communities, a sustainable economy and improved quality of life. Maintaining momentum over the coming years will be critical to achieving the Council's 2030 targets and long-term climate resilience.

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Acknowledgments:

The Climate Action Unit wish to acknowledge the work being undertaken and the continued buy-in across the council under the stewardship of the senior management team of Monaghan County Council. We acknowledge the work and assistance of the elected members, Climate SPC, and the wider community we serve.

Finally, a sincere thank you to colleagues on the wider Climate Action Team and Energy Management Team for your continued support.



Climate Action Team visit to Drumlins Park Wind Farm in Newbliss

1. Introduction

This is the second progress report of the Monaghan 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 Monaghan County Council

Data and information contained within this report offer an accurate and transparent picture of progress in the second 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.

1.1 Methodology and Format of Report

The format of this report is informed by the reporting requirements for Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAP), the Monaghan 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’.

1.2 Climate Actions and UN Sustainability Goals

The information in the report details actions and their alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are “a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”².² They represent 17 social, economic and environmental priorities designed to combat the global challenges facing humanity by 2030. Monaghan County Council has an important part to play in progress toward the UN SDGs.

The LACAP has identified and mapped actions to the SDGs. Through this progress report, contributions to delivering on the UN SDGs through the delivery of actions, are reflected from an environmental perspective.



Figure 1- Sustainable Development Goals

² UN Sustainable Development Goals: Available at: [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/)

2. Climate Action Plan Overview

The Climate Action Plan contains 93 actions (excluding DZ actions) across 5 thematic areas with the following actions distribution across the themes:



Action Type Breakdown is as follows:

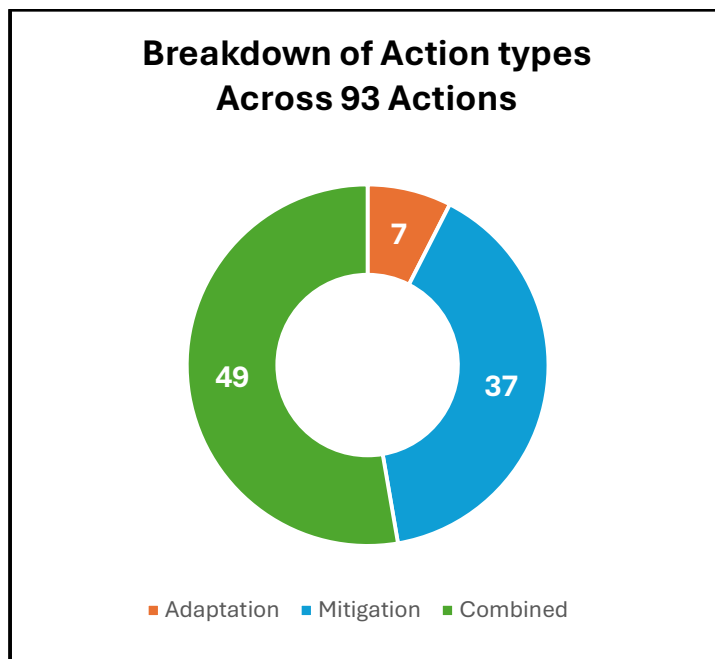


Figure 2 - Breakdown of Action Types

2.1 Overview of Climate Actions

As outlined in Table 1 and Figure 3, the main plan contains 93 actions, 46 of which are annual recurring actions that must be delivered each year. By the end of 2025, 65% of actions had been completed, 24% were in progress, and 11% had not yet started. Overall, strong progress has been made, with 89% of all actions either completed or underway within just the second year of implementation.

Theme	No. of Actions	Completed	In Progress	Actions Not Started
Governance and Leadership	15	11	2	2
Built Environment and Transport	33	19	8	6
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	14	6	7	1
Communities: Resilience & Transition	16	14	1	1
Sustainability & Resource Management	15	11	4	0
Total No. of Actions	93	61	22	10

Table 1 - Overview of Climate Actions

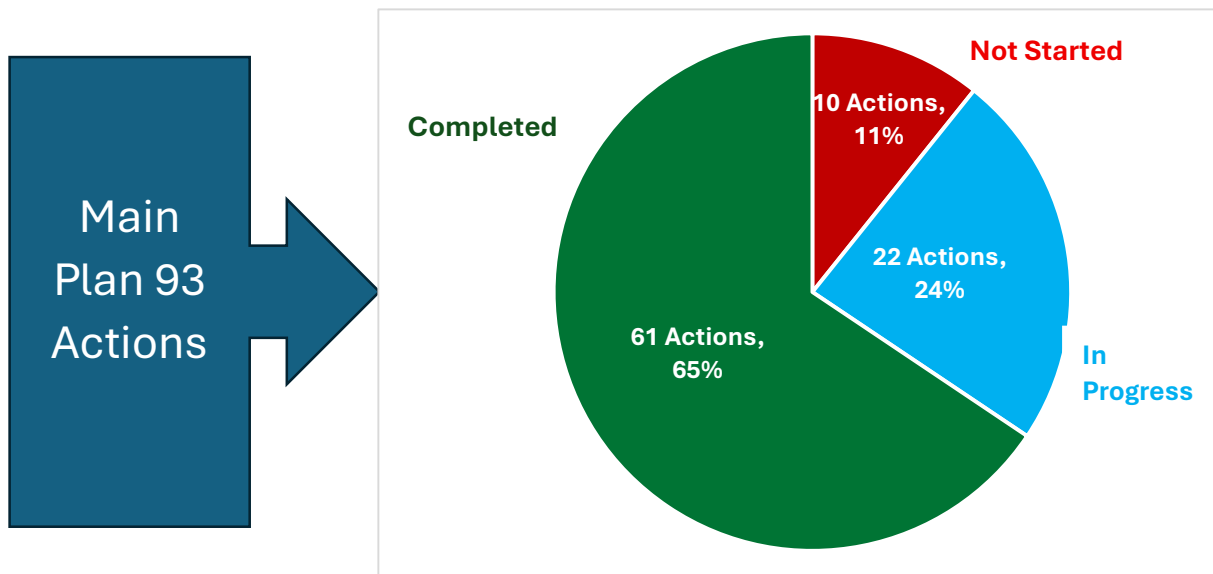


Figure 3 - Progress of Actions Main Plan

2.2 DZ Actions Overview

The DZ Action plan within the Climate Action Plan contains 60 DZ actions across 5 thematic areas with the following action distribution across the themes:



DZ Action Type Breakdown is as follows:

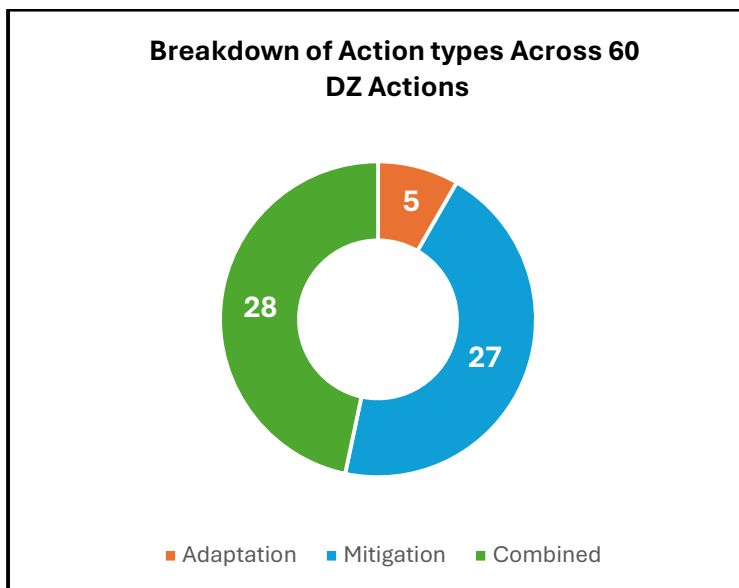


Figure 4 - Breakdown of Action across DZ

2.3 Dashboard view of DZ Actions

As outlined in Table 2 and Figure 5 below, the DZ action plan contains 60 actions, 21 of which are annual recurring actions. By the end of 2025, 68% of actions had been completed, 17% were in progress, and 15% had not yet started. Overall, strong progress has been achieved, with 85% of actions either completed or underway within the second year of implementation.

Theme	No. of Actions	Completed	In Progress	Actions Not Started
Governance and Leadership	7	7	0	0
Built Environment and Transport	26	14	7	5
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	8	3	1	4
Communities: Resilience & Transition	12	10	2	0
Sustainability & Resource Management	7	7	0	0
Total No. of Actions	60	41	10	9

Table 2 - Overview of DZ Actions

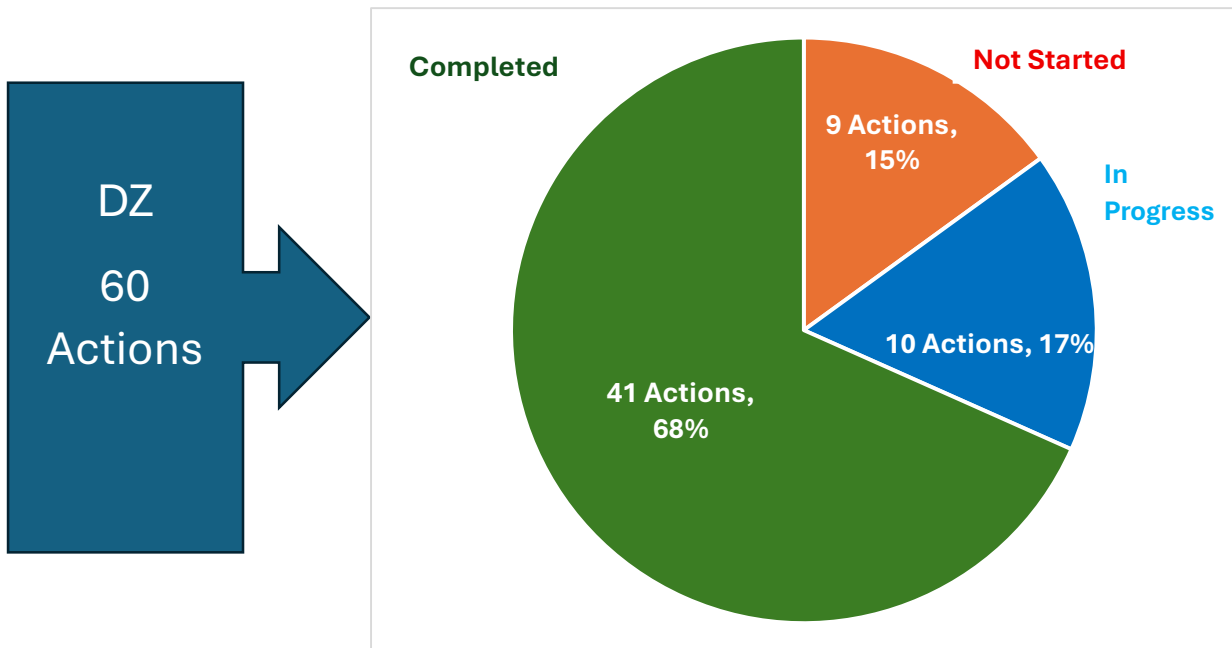













Figure 5 - Progress of DZ Actions

2.4 Progress of Climate Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals

The LACAP and Decarbonisation Zone actions completed in 2025, along with those currently underway, are contributing to progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals in the following ways.

Actions Completed or In Progress in 2025		
SDG	Link to Theme / Topic	Our Performance Towards the SDGs
	Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events	T17: Transport networks continue to be maintained to in all municipal districts along with drainage to alleviate flooding issues close to vulnerable communities. DZ BE 1: Continue to retrofit social housing to reduction in energy poverty in the most impacted communities.
	Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals, and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	T8: Continued to deliver Active Travel and Greenway projects to achieve transport modal shift by encouraging cycling, walking, and running as an alternative to travel by car to support good health and wellbeing. DZ T.17: Continue to promote and support the Safe Routes to School programme. In 2025, funding was allocated for four Safe Routes to School Active Travel projects within the Decarbonisation Zone, with delivery plans completed to further encourage active and sustainable travel.
	Ensure all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development	GL 8: Delivered Climate action training to over 200 staff in 2025. CRT 16: Climate Action Week was held by Monaghan County Council from the 13th-19th of October 2025. During this week there was numerous events held to help empower communities to achieve their sustainability and climate goals such as: Biodiversity and Climate Action community workshops, School wildflower planting event, school visits to Knocknagrave Environmental Centre, Re-love Fashion launch, Green Transport webinar along with Monaghan Green Business hub events.
	Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and hazardous chemicals Increase water use efficiency Protect and restore water resources management	NEGI 14: Blue Dot protection plan was completed in collaboration with Tydavnet Group Water Scheme for Scotstown. In 2025, Tydavnet GWS secured approximately €500,000 in PEACEPLUS funding through the CALM Project for the Scotstown Blue Dot River. This funding will support the implementation of measures identified in the initial baseline riparian survey, and these measures are expected to deliver multiple benefits including water quality protection, enhanced climate resilience and increased biodiversity.
	Increase share of renewable energy Improvement of energy efficiency	BE12: Council continue to benchmark and track emissions and energy efficiency. Performing well on 2030 targets, with energy efficiency target at 49.5% of 50% needed. Total emissions also reduced by 40%, from baseline but continued work needed to meet fossil fuel emission targets for 2030. DZ BE.8: Feasibility Study on District Heating nearing completion, with several opportunities identified with the area of Monaghan Town DZ. The Climate Action Unit submitted an expression of interest to SEAI to complete detailed project development for two of the opportunities identified in the feasibility study. Working towards increasing the amount of renewable/zero carbon heat in the county.

	<p>Promoted development-orientated policies that support productive activities</p>	<p>BE 8: Continued to administer Croi Conaithe Grant in 2025, to date over €5,469,117 has been granted for projects involving refurbishment of vacant properties.</p> <p>CRT 11: 19 businesses were approved for the green business support in 2025, helping to drive economic and business growth.</p> <p>DZ BE9: Town Centre First plan completed for Monaghan Town in 2025.</p>
	<p>Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure</p> <p>Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable</p>	<p>T5: Regional EV strategy has been completed, with implementation plan due to be completed in Q1 of 2026.</p> <p>CRT3: A total of 16 groups in the county were funded under phase 1 of the Community Climate Action Programme to implement local climate projects. Over €700,000 was allocated to support 16 local climate projects within the County and regional area.</p>
	<p>Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all</p>	<p>DZ GL4: Number of events held throughout 2025, DZ Event on Green business support & grants held during Enterprise week, Retrofit Roadshow held in early November, farming for the future during climate action week, along with numerous other community events held to help promote social, economic and political inclusion of all.</p> <p>CRT 16: Climate Action Week was held in Monaghan County Council on the 13th-19th of October 2025. During this week there was several events held to help empower communities to achieve their sustainability and climate goals such as: Biodiversity and Climate Action community workshops, School wildflower planting event, school visits to Knocknagrave Environmental Centre, Re-love Fashion launch, Green Transport webinar along with Monaghan Green Business hub events.</p>
	<p>Protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage</p> <p>Inclusion resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change</p>	<p>BE14: Town Centre first plans have been completed for Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Ballybay currently in progress, with Castleblayney and Clones to be started in 2026, subject to funding. These plans will help make towns more climate resilient.</p> <p>To date, over 66% of actions within the Climate Action plan have been completed. This will help work towards a more sustainable and climate resilient county.</p>
	<p>Substantially reduce waste generation</p> <p>Promote sustainable procurement practices</p>	<p>SRM10: To reduce the number of single use plastic bottles being used water refill stations have been installed at strategic locations such as Rossmore Forest Park and Monaghan Greenway.</p> <p>GL5: New Green Procurement Policy currently being drafted.</p>
	<p>Improving Education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change.</p>	<p>DZ CRT.1: Over 60 local businesses attended the Decarbonisation Zone event hosted by the Local Enterprise Office in partnership with the Climate Action Unit. Held during Enterprise Week, the event showcased the range of sustainability and energy efficiency supports available to businesses. Supporting private sector- climate action offers significant opportunities to reduce emissions, create green jobs and strengthen the resilience of the built environment.</p>




		<p>CRT 3: A total of 17 groups in the county are funded under the Community Climate Action Programme to implement local climate projects. A total of €392,000 was allocated to support 11 local climate projects within the County in Q3/4 2024. In addition, a further 6 Monaghan communities was received funding from the Shared Island Strand (Strand 1a) of the fund to partner with a community in NI. Nationally, Monaghan was allocated the second highest allocation of funding of €398,000 under the Shared Island Strand in Q3/4 2025. Helping raise awareness and build capacity on climate change.</p>
	<p>Ensure conservation and restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems</p> <p>Prevent the introduction and reduce impact of invasive species</p>	<p>NEGI 6: Peaceplus nature project commenced on 1st of August 2025. 600-hectare bog restoration being progress on the Monaghan side of Sliabh Beagh.</p> <p>DZ NEGI.2: Housing section are planning several biodiversity projects for 2025/2026. Improvement of Urban Habitats: Monaghan Town’s urban biodiversity is being enhanced through projects at Peters Lake, the Bog Garden, and the Ulster Canal Greenway. Improvements include native tree planting, reed bed management, and pollinator-friendly beds at Peters Lake; chemical-free management of wetland and bog species at the Bog Garden; and native tree and hedgerow planting along the Greenway to create pollinator corridors. These initiatives strengthen ecological connectivity, support pollinators, and provide accessible green spaces for people, contributing to a vibrant, sustainable urban environment.</p>
	<p>Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making.</p>	<p>GL3: Four quarterly SMT and Council Wide- Climate Action Team meetings were held in 2025. Attendance at the Council Wide- Team meetings has been strong, reflecting real momentum in our climate commitments. Led by Chief Executive Robert Burns and the Senior Management Team, staff from all functions have come together, demonstrating that climate action is a shared priority across the organisation.</p> <p>DZ GL7: Two DZ Taskforce meetings were held in 2025. The June meeting included updates on green business supports, the MABRI home retrofit programme, and a biodiversity proposal for Elliot’s Land. The November meeting focused on district heating progress, community planting initiatives, the Community Climate Action Programme, MABRI updates, and SEAI Pathfinder works for Monaghan Leisure Centre. Additional updates included funding secured for the old chapel, progress on Dublin Street improvements, and ongoing Active Travel projects, including Horseshoe Bridge works, Cootehill Road consultation, new bike repair and water refill stations, and improved public lighting and access routes.</p>
	<p>Build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development</p> <p>Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships</p>	<p>DZ GL4: The Climate Action Unit partnered with Monaghan Institute (CMETB) to host the Retrofit Roadshow from 3–7 November. Public interest was strong, with attendees engaging in practical, no-nonsense- advice on home energy upgrades. The roadshow featured a fully equipped mobile NZEB unit from LOETB and the Mount Lucas training facility, offering guidance and training on retrofitting.</p>

Table 3 - Progress of Actions Towards SDG's

3. Leadership & Governance

3.1 Governance Structure

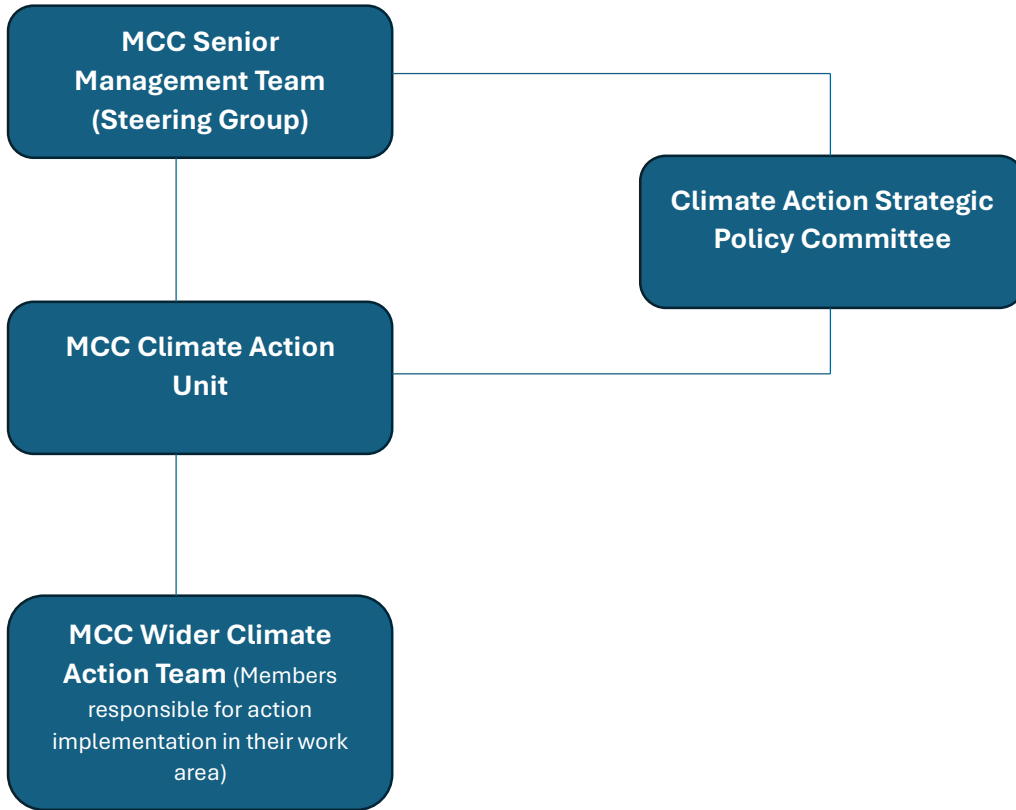


Figure 6 - Governance Structure



Figure 7 - Autumn meeting of the council wide Climate Action Implementation Team

The cross departmental Climate Action Team meets quarterly to drive the implementation of the Council’s Climate Action Plan. These meetings are attended by the Senior Management team in conjunction with representatives from all council functions working on climate action. The implementation of the plan is a corporate priority for the council and depends on the collective efforts of all sections of the organisation. The collaborative spirit will continue as the team meets quarterly to review progress, tackle obstacles, and seize new opportunities.

3.2 Integration of Climate Action Objectives into Plans and Operations

Addressing climate change is fundamental to Monaghan’s long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability. Reflecting this, the Climate Action Unit worked closely with the Planning Section to embed climate action as a core theme within the new County Development Plan, supporting the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and environmentally sustainable county with a climate neutral local economy. The Unit also collaborated with Corporate Services to ensure climate action is a central pillar of the new Corporate Plan. This integrated approach ensures that climate action is embedded across the organisation’s policies, plans and day-to-day operations.

The Council has also launched a €465 million Capital Investment Programme for 2026–2028. Active Travel remains a key priority, with the Horseshoe Bridge project nearing completion in early 2026 and the Ballyalbany Bridge scheme also commencing. Safe Routes to School projects will also continue to improve safety and accessibility for children and families.

More than €100 million is allocated for regeneration and economic development, while a further €30 million will support tourism and amenity upgrades at Dartrey Forest Park, Rossmore Forest Park, Black Island and Lough Muckno, strengthening Monaghan’s outdoor recreation offering.

Climate action is embedded throughout the programme, including deep retrofits of public buildings under the SEAI Pathfinder Programme and the adoption of low carbon, data driven road maintenance approaches.

This programme reflects a strategic, future focused investment in a more sustainable, connected and vibrant County Monaghan.

3.3 Staff and Elected Members Training and Capacity Building

In 2025, a range of Climate Action training courses were delivered, including Building Capacity, Urban Water Nature Based Solutions, Climate Action and European Funding, Climate Goals in Transport, and Bioeconomy training. In total, 27 courses were provided to 224 staff members.

3.4 Climate Action Reporting Framework

Climate action reporting requirements and arrangements are set out on page 129 of the LACAP and focuses on five areas, which are listed in figure 7 below.



Figure 8 - Reporting Framework

Internal Reporting

- To ensure that delivery is timely, the implementation of the Climate Action Plan is monitored via an in-house monitoring system. The local authority will also facilitate reporting to Elected Members on an annual basis, through the Implementation Progress Report. Reporting frequency may be increased if relevant data is made available on a more frequent basis

Monitoring and Reporting (M&R)

- The Council continues to report on energy performance and emission targets annually to the SEAI. To track progress on the DZ implementation the Council will continue to engage with the Climate Action Regional Offices in the delivery of the DZ Actions / Register of Opportunities for the Monaghan Town DZ.

Sectoral Performance

- The Council continues to report annually on their performance on climate action by way of KPIs to inform the performance of the local government sector on climate action, as part of the local government DECA 2030 Strategy.

National Climate Action Plan

- The Council will, in accordance with Part 3(w) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter, continue to report annually to the DECC on progress on climate action at local level as part of the delivery of the national climate objective.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

- The 2018-2020 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan acknowledged that local government ‘has a crucial role to play in translating national policies into tangible practical actions that can help to concretise the SDG objectives into our individual and communities’ behaviours and goals.’ Furthermore, local authorities are recognised as one of the Agenda 2030’s nine ‘Major Groups’, which play a crucial role in sustainable development and Agenda 2030 also highlights the particular role of local authorities and communities in sustainable urban development. The Council is working to advance the SDGs. Each of the actions listed in the Climate Action Plan for the County and for the Decarbonisation Zone are mapped against the relevant goals and targets in the SDGs.

4. Climate Mitigation Targets

4.1 Emission Reduction and Energy Efficiency Targets Being Pursued

Monaghan County Council has made significant progress over the past five years towards the 2030 targets of a 51% reduction in GHG emissions and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency. By the end of 2024, the Council had achieved a 49.5% increase in energy efficiency, bringing it very close to the 50% target. Work is continuing to further improve performance and maintain progress toward 2030.

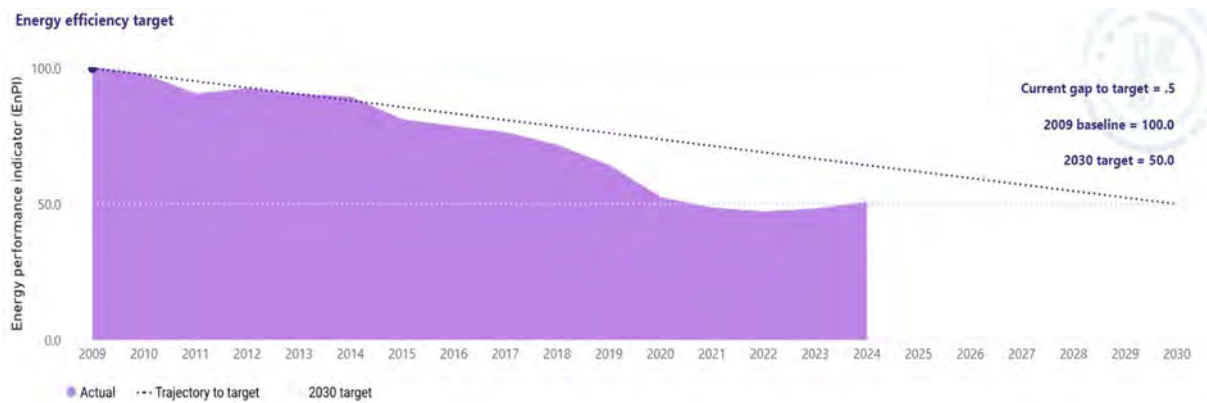


Figure 9 - MCC Energy Efficiency Progress

4.2 Total CO2 emissions:

Total Emissions have been reduced by a combined 40.9% since the baseline year of 2016-2018. Further works are being undertaken to reduce electricity, transport and thermal emissions by 51% individually.

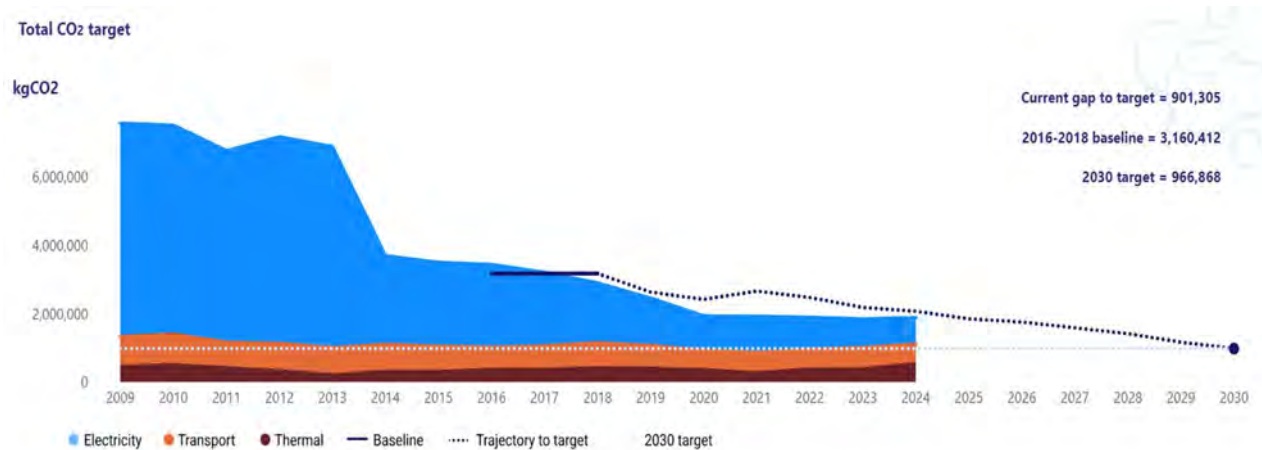


Figure 10 – MCC Total CO2 Emissions Targets

4.3 Fossil Fuel CO2 Emissions:

Fossil fuel emissions have risen over the past two years, largely due to the expansion of Monaghan County Council’s building portfolio and an increase in overall floor area. This period has also seen a continued rise in staff numbers compared with the baseline year, further contributing to higher energy use and associated emissions. These factors have resulted in an overall increase in the Council’s carbon footprint, a challenge shared by many public bodies. Work is ongoing to identify and implement measures that will help close the gap to target for fossil fuel emissions.

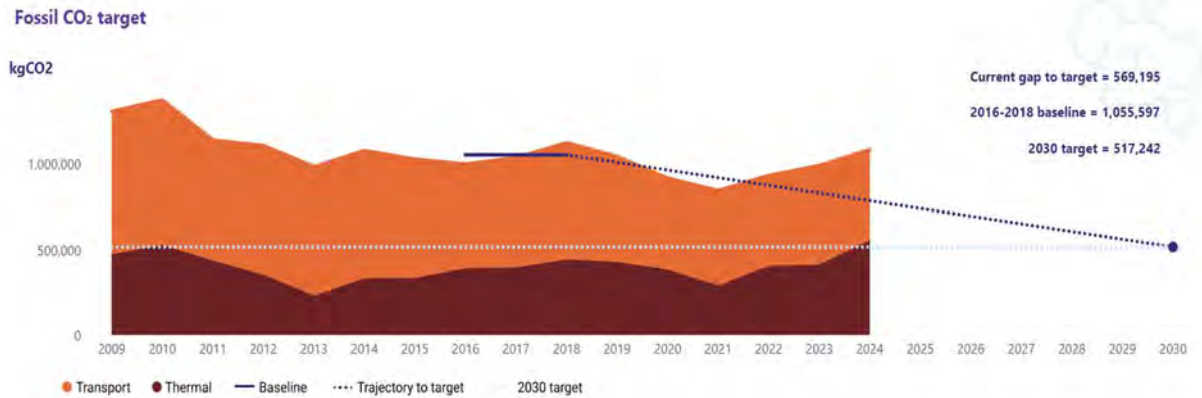


Figure 11 - MCC Fossil Fuel Emission Targets

4.4 Gap to Target for Fossil Fuels:

The public-sector 2030 target requires a 51% absolute reduction in GHG emissions. Monaghan County Council remains committed to achieving this through the progress made to date, ongoing carbon reduction measures in public buildings under the Pathfinder Programme, the exploration of low carbon fleet alternatives such as HVO and electric vehicles, and ensuring all new public buildings meet high-performance standards, including compliance with NZEB requirements.

As of the end of 2024, MCC’s fossil fuel- emissions total 1,086 tCO₂, which must be reduced by 51% from the baseline year. The corresponding targets are illustrated in the table 4 and figure 12 below.

	Baseline	Current	Target
Baselines	1,056		
Buildings		535	259
Transportation		552	259
Total	1,056	1,086	517

Table 4 - Gap to Target on Fossil Fuels

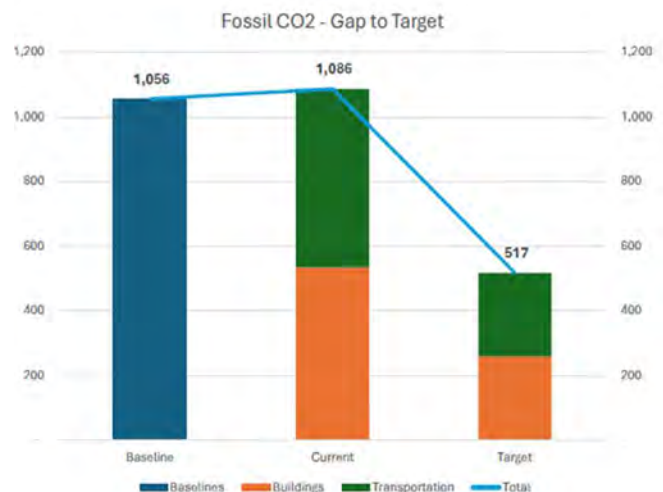


Figure 12 - Gap to Target Chart

The gap to target for reducing thermal emissions in MCC’s buildings is outlined in table 5 and figure 13 below, showing the percentage reduction of planned projects.

	Current	Gap	Planned	Percentage
Current Fossil CO2	535			
Target		259		
Gap To Target		276		
Leisure Centre			200	72%
CMX Civic			20	7%
Clones Library			6	2%
New HQ			50	18%
Total	535	535	276	

Table 5 - Planned Projects

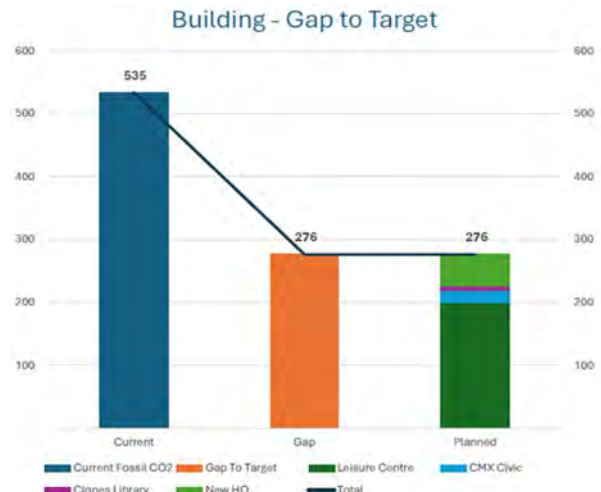


Figure 13 - Planned Projects Emission Reduction

Monaghan County Council continues to make strong progress in decarbonising its fleet. As shown in the Figure 14 below, 20% of vehicles now operate on HVO, which can reduce lifecycle emissions by up to 90%. A further 10% of the fleet has transitioned to fully electric vehicles, while the remaining 70% still runs on diesel or petrol. The Council will continue to expand the use of HVO and electric vehicles in the coming years.

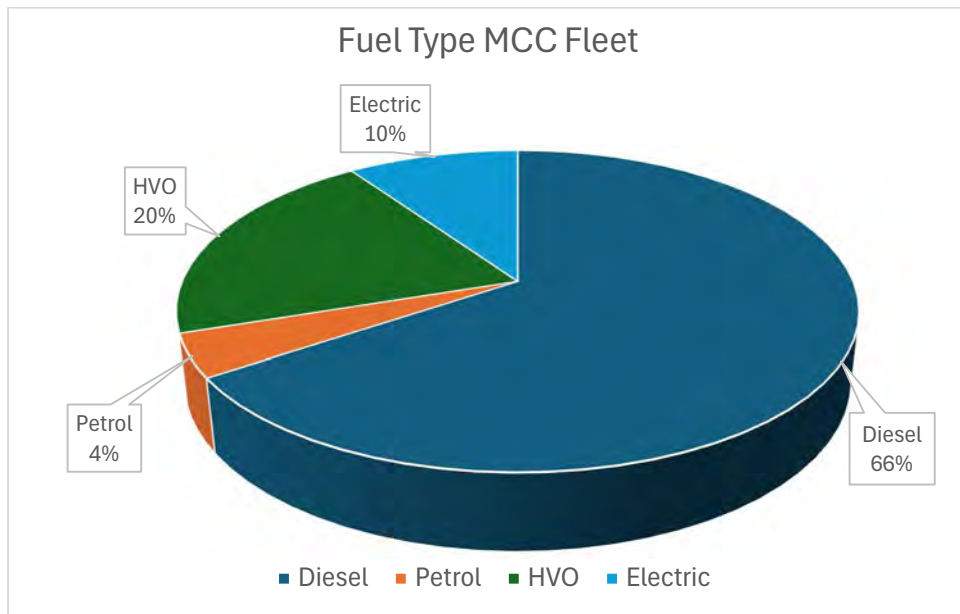


Figure 14 - MCC Fleet Fuel Type

5. Climate Adaptation Goals

5.1 LACAP Climate Change Risk Assessment

The Monaghan County Council Climate Change Risk Assessment, 2023, provides a review of the extreme weather events that occurred in the county over the past 30 years. It is indicated that the most frequent severe weather event was severe windstorms. Noted snowfall and freezing events when they occurred, resulted in widespread disruption of transportation, energy and water supply networks across the county. The change in frequency of the severe weather events is outlined below.













HAZARD PROJECTED CHANGE IN FREQUENCY	CLIMATE PROJECTIONS
Heatwaves Increase  	Projections indicate an overall increase in average temperature of between 1.2 and 1.6°C for County Monaghan relative to the 1981- 2000 period. Under a high emission scenario, projections indicate that heatwaves will become more frequent by mid- century.
Droughts Increase  	Summer rainfall is expected to reduce by between 5 and 11% in the future when compared with the baseline period of 1981 to 2000, contributing to a potential increase in frequency of drought conditions.
Cold Spell Decrease  	Because of the increasing temperatures, a decrease in the number of frost days and ice days is projected for the period from 2041-2060 when compared with the baseline period of 1981 to 2000.
Heavy Snowfall Decrease  	The annual snowfall in the region is projected to decrease substantially by the middle of the century.
Severe Wind-storms No Change  	Projections of storms are subject to a high level of uncertainty. By mid-century, projections indicate that average wind speed will remain like those currently experienced. However, some projections indicate an increase in the frequency of the most intense storms which are currently rare events.
Flooding Increase  	Projections indicate an increase in the frequency of heavy rainfall days (days with precipitation >30mm) for County Monaghan with some areas projected to see increases of up to 89%. This will likely result in an increased frequency of associated river and surface water flooding.

Table 6 - Climate Projections

The LACAP sets out specific actions that relate to ability for the Council to adapt to these emerging climate risks. The Monaghan County Council Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) is a high-level team that examines operational needs and risks around severe weather events. The SWAT team is constantly aware of, and monitors the risks associated with climatic changes and their relevance for securing the functional and operational needs of the Council. In 2025, the team was convened 4 times in response to the following extreme weather event types:

- Wind (x3)
- Rain (x1)

5.2 CCRA Risks Addressed

The Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 developed a range of actions to focus efforts on addressing the risks identified within the Climate Risk Assessment. Within 2025, the following adaptation/combined actions were in progress or completed for that year working towards making Monaghan more resilient against severe weather conditions posed by Climate change.

Action No.	Action Aim	Action Progress (where currently available)
GL10	Review the major emergency plan and flood plan to ensure incorporation of future climate risk	In Progress – SWAT team continue to review the major emergency and flood planning. Critical incident training scenarios are ongoing to test the resilience of the plan and make changes where required. There were 8 SWAT meetings in 2025. The severe weather response plan was implemented 4 times.
NEGI7	Ensure proposals for Sustainable Drainage Systems are included in all development proposals, where practicable.	In Progress - Nature based solutions promoted as best practice in newly adopted development plan. McCloy Consulting currently developing catchment flood/drainage study for Monaghan Town, from this there will be adaptation/mitigation recommendations to alleviate flooding in the town.
T17	Maintain transport network to take account of risk of surface water floods	Completed – Mon MD: 2025 Roads Programme complete along with drainage for 9 local roads and 1 regional road. Total length of roads resurfaced along with drainage works 12km. Roads maintenance programme completed. Additional roads were completed. Ballybay/Clones MD: 2025 Roads Programme complete along with drainage for 12 local roads and 3 regional road. Total length of roads resurfaced along with drainage works 15km. Carrickmacross/Castleblaney MD: Maintenance complete for 2025 to improve road drainage effectiveness. 2025 Roads Programme complete along with drainage for 17 local roads and 2 regional roads. An application was successfully submitted under the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Fund to address the ongoing flooding in Donaghmoynne. Consultants have been engaged to develop appropriate solutions. Consultants continuing to work towards part 8

		<p>planning application to address flooding issues in Donaghmoyne area. Anticipated part 8 planning will be submitted in early 2026.</p> <p>Raising of road levels, over two consecutive years, at Annadrummon, Castleblayney, to allow continuous safe passage for the local communities on our rural roads.</p>
GL 2	<p>Ensure that Climate Action is listed as a standing item each quarter on the agenda of the Management Team meetings.</p>	<p>Completed – Climate Action is now listed as a standing item each quarter on the agenda of the management team meetings. The Climate Action unit meet with the SMT each quarter.</p>
GL 3	<p>Support the activities of the Council wide Climate Action Team & Steering Group including ensuring participation from staff representatives from across all key departments of MCC to ensure the successful implementation of the actions of this Climate Action Plan and to report on progress.</p>	<p>Completed – In 2025, there was four quarterly SMT and Council Wide Climate Action Team Meetings respectively.</p> <p>The meetings of the Council Wide Climate Action Team have been well attended marking a significant step forward in our commitment to a sustainable future. Led by Chief Executive Robert Burns and the Senior Management team, representatives from all council functions came together, emphasising that climate action is a top priority and a collective effort.</p> <p>Each meeting features an open discussion on plan implementation. This collaborative spirit will continue as we meet quarterly to review our progress, tackle obstacles, and seize new opportunities.</p>
DZ T.13	<p>Utilise low-carbon pavement material within works on the DZ’s road network.</p>	<p>Developed 5-year pavement maintenance strategy. Funding from Dept of Transport for 2026, design to reduce pavement depth/dependant on traffic volumes can use low carbon interventions. Low carbon and less material used.</p>

Table 7 - Climate Adaptation Actions Progress

6. Delivery of Climate Action Across Services

Climate Action reaches across all Council services and functions. In this section, LACAP action delivery is demonstrated through “case studies” or examples where the council is delivering on climate action through its day-to-day service delivery.

6.1 Active Travel

Monaghan County Council Active Travel section continues to make good progress in delivering further Active Travel projects and increasing options for sustainable travel. Action T8 of the LACAP requires the council to “*Deliver active travel and greenway projects to achieve transport modal shift by encouraging cycling, walking, and running as an alternative to travel by car*”. As of the end of 2025, 2 projects were completed, and 3 projects were in progress.

Monaghan Town Greenway - Slí Ogie Dhufaigh - Works completed on section of the Monaghan Town Greenway adjacent to Slí Ogie Dhufaigh to include final red coloured skid resistant finish to improve connectivity and wayfinding along the greenway for cyclists and pedestrians.



Figure 15 - Slí Ogie Dhufaigh

Horseshoe Pedestrian Bridge – works commenced on the Pedestrian bridge in Monaghan Town to improve active travel connections for pedestrians and cyclists on this busy walking route to schools, the greenway and residential areas. Works will continue in 2026.



Figure 16 - Horse shoe Pedestrian Bridge Launch

6.2 Housing

Monaghan County Council's Housing Department continues to make strong progress in retrofitting its social housing stock to improve energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions. By the end of 2025, 55% of social homes across the county had achieved a BER rating of B2 or higher, rising to 59% within the Decarbonisation Zone. These figures include both retrofitted properties and new energy efficient builds. The Housing Section also expanded its portfolio of A2 rated homes, with several new and in construction units showcased below.

Cois Abhann – 22 A2 Rated homes



Figure 18 - Cois Abhann

Coil an Ri – 30 A2 Rated homes



Figure 17 - Coil an Ri

Sli Na Coille – 30 A2 Rated Homes,



Figure 20 - Sli Na Coille

Knockcarrick – 40 A2 rated homes



Figure 19 - Knockcarrick

Below are some examples of recent retrofitting works also completed by our housing section.



6.3 Biodiversity

Protecting, enhancing, and restoring biodiversity and natural resources is essential for climate adaptation. Under Action NEGI11, the Council is required to “*promote specific talks or workshops for farmers on High Nature Value farming practices to enable practical skills to be shared.*” In 2025, the Biodiversity Officer delivered on this action by hosting a Farm Open Day during Biodiversity Week on the organic farm of Mark Gillanders, a Farming for Nature Ambassador. The event featured the construction of a Johnson Su bioreactor and was very well attended, with strong engagement from all participants.

The Biodiversity Officer also facilitated three events for Climate Action Week, with 6 community and residents groups attending excellent Leaf Mould making workshops in Monaghan and Castleblayney. A native seed collecting event also took place with the children from the Waldorf school in the Ballybay wetlands.



Figure 22 - Farm Walk Leaflet



Figure 21- Waldorf School in Ballybay Wetlands

6.4 Regeneration

In 2025, the Regeneration section carried out initiatives and projects to enhance the public realm, support regeneration efforts, and reduce dereliction. The **Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant** is part of the Government's Housing for All plan to tackle vacancy and make better use of existing housing. The grant helps people refurbish vacant homes in towns and villages, and the scheme has since been expanded to include vacant properties in all rural and urban areas nationwide.

Since the rollout of the Croí Cónaithe Grant, over 250 property owners have been approved for funding to refurbish derelict buildings. Below are examples of before and after images of properties restored with support from our Regeneration Team

Before:



After:



Before:



After:



The Regeneration Team also secured €7 million in funding for the redevelopment of the former St. Louis Chapel through the **Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme (THRIVE)**. This transformative investment is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union under the ERDF Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021–27.

The project is a flagship element of the St. Louis Lands Masterplan and builds on extensive public engagement carried out through the Town Centre First plan in Monaghan. Securing this funding represents a significant milestone in bringing the long derelict St. Louis Chapel back into productive use as a multifunctional community asset and a key anchor for the future development of Monaghan Town. Below are some images of the proposed works to former St. Louis Chapel.



Figure 23 - Proposed Works Louis Lands Chapel



Figure 24 - Proposed Works to Louis Lands Chapel 2

6.5 Green Enterprise and Economic Development (Local Enterprise Office)

In 2025, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) delivered a range of initiatives to promote sustainability and climate action among Monaghan businesses. Under Action CRT11 of the LACAP, the Council is required to “expand the Green Business Support Scheme enabling businesses to measure their carbon footprint and obtain recommendations to reduce it.” The scheme performed strongly, with 19 businesses approved in 2025, and promotion will continue into 2026. LEO also rolled out the Green Energy Efficiency Grant, supporting 11 businesses to adopt green technologies.

As part of Enterprise Week, a Decarbonisation Zone event on Green Business Grants and Supports was held on 5th of March in the Peace Campus. More than 60 local businesses attended the event, hosted by LEO in partnership with the Climate Action Unit, which highlighted the supports available to help improve sustainability and energy performance. Supporting private sector climate action offers significant opportunities to reduce emissions, create green jobs, and strengthen the resilience of the built environment.



Figure 25 - DZ Event Enterprise week



Figure 26 - DZ Event Enterprise Week 2

6.6 Environmental Services/Circular Economy

In 2025, approximately €100,000 was secured through the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) programme to deliver a variety of projects. These included multiple site cleanups coordinated with the MD offices, the installation of infrastructure such as fencing to prevent unauthorised dumping, and subsidised bulky waste collection months at the Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross recycling centres. Separate from the ADI programme, Monaghan County Council, in partnership with the Regional Waste Planning Offices, also hosted a hazardous waste collection day. The Environment Section also delivered numerous circular economy initiatives, such as:

Debs Dress Pop-up Shop:

Monaghan County Council hosted its inaugural Debs Dress Pop-up Shop in Castleblayney from 9–12 April 2025. The event generated significant public interest, with promotional posts on the Council’s Facebook page reaching 46,828 views within the first three days and rising to 57,946 views by 11 April. What began as a local initiative quickly developed into a -cross border- event, attracting buyers and sellers from both Northern Ireland and the Republic.

The aim of the popup shop was to encourage the reuse of formalwear by promoting the buying and selling of second-hand dresses, helping to reduce textile waste and support more sustainable consumer choices. Over 100 dresses were processed during the initiative, demonstrating strong community engagement and a clear appetite for circular economy solutions.



Figure 27 - Debs Dress Pop-up Shop

Halloween Circular Economy Initiative:

In the leadup to Halloween 2025, the Environmental Section organised five Halloween Costume Swap Shops across the county, hosted at each of our library locations. The initiative encouraged families to donate and exchange costumes, reducing textile waste and promoting reuse in a fun, -community focused- way. The swap shops were extremely well attended and received very positive feedback from parents and children alike. By giving costumes a second life, the events supported households in reducing costs while also reinforcing the Council’s commitment to the circular economy.



Figure 28 - Halloween Costume Swap Shop

6.7 Climate Action Unit

In 2025, the Climate Action Unit continued to work on embedding climate change within the local authority and across its administrative area. A major milestone in 2025 was the commencement of the Council’s District Heating Feasibility Study Led by Monaghan County Council and delivered in partnership with Cavan and Leitrim local authorities. The feasibility study was split over two phases and was fully funded by the SEAI.

Phase 1 (completed): Assessed heat demand across settlements in County Monaghan to identify priority clusters. Five towns — Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay — were evaluated based on demand levels, anchor loads, heat source potential, growth projections and land zoning. Monaghan Town, Carrickmacross and Castleblayney were shortlisted. A further detailed desktop analysis identified Monaghan Town as the preferred location for a district heating network.

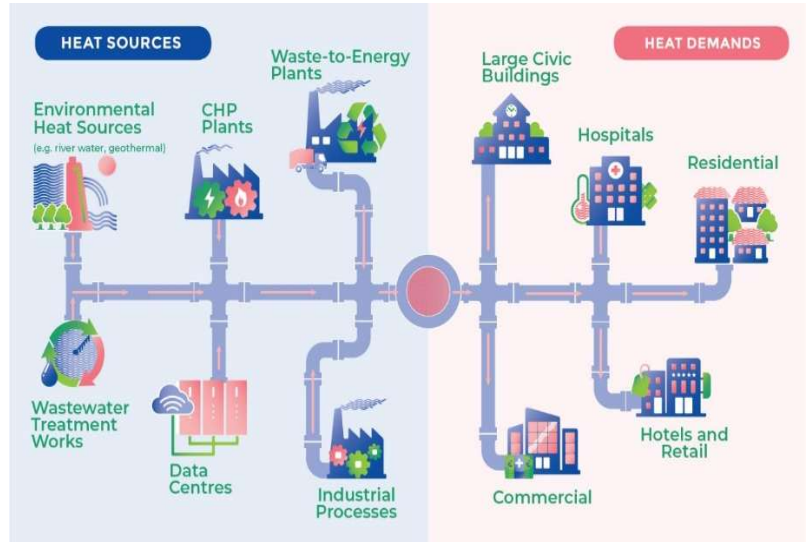


Figure 29 - District Heating Heat Sources/Demands

Phase 2 (near completion): Focused on the Decarbonisation Zone of Monaghan Town and included an in-depth assessment of three opportunities identified in Phase 1, high-level design of potential network routes, and a techno-economic analysis of costs and commercial structures. Phase 2 will be completed in early 2026.

GoCar: A six month pilot sustainable transport initiative was launched, providing an electric vehicle for staff business travel. The initiative aimed to reduce emissions from Council transport and encourage a shift toward low carbon travel options. To support uptake, staff demonstration events were held over the summer, offering information sessions and test drives of the EV.



Figure 30- Launch of MCC GoCar

6.8 Libraries and Climate Action

Creative Monaghan continued its SCRAP (sustainable fashion and upcycling programme for teens) in 2025, supporting 73 secondary school students in the 2025/2026 Relove competition through sewing and fashion design workshops. A wider programme of sewing and upcycling workshops was also delivered across Monaghan libraries, with approximately 80 participants taking part in sessions ranging from basic sewing machine skills to alterations and cushion making.

Additional initiatives included funding sustainable Christmas craft workshops in Clones Library and supporting a children’s creative writing programme for the Catchments 2025 Lough Muckno Festival, themed around local biodiversity and climate. A plant dye workshop for adults further encouraged discussion on sustainability. Creative Monaghan also developed a sustainability statement for the inaugural CREATE Festival at Hilton Park, where sustainability informed all aspects of event delivery, including reusable materials, local vendor selection, sustainable printing practices, and composting and recycling systems.



Figure 32 - Relove Fashion Leaflet



Figure 31 - Relove Fashion Event

6.9 Sustainable Tourism

In 2025, Monaghan Tourism launched multiple campaigns to promote sustainable tourism. **Monaghan Tourism 'C'Mon to Monaghan' summer 2025 promotional campaign**, As with previous campaigns in recent years, the 2025 campaign consisted of a video series highlighting local businesses that support and contribute to the tourism offering in Co. Monaghan (food producers, crafters, visitor attractions and activity providers). The key focus of the series is supporting and promoting local food, craft, tourism and activity producers/providers in the county and in doing so; increase brand awareness of these offerings to consumers, support a 'shop local' message for the economic benefit of the county, and foster a sustainable tourism ethos by featuring businesses that subscribe to this principle. The campaign rolled out via the Monaghan Tourism and Monaghan County Council social media channels over summer 2025 and enjoyed active engagement across all platforms.



Figure 33 - C'Mon To Monaghan Promotional Campaign

A new initiative for 2025, was the “**Scenic Sessions**’ series, which featured a collection of pop-up performances filmed in some of Monaghan’s most picturesque settings, including Ballybay Town Park, Lough Muckno and Church Square in Monaghan town, amongst others. The series brought together local musicians and audiences for off-grid performances set in stunning scenic backdrops across the county, promoting the wonderful creative and cultural talent working and thriving in Co. Monaghan, as well as showcasing the wide range of nature-based amenities available to enjoy in the county to encourage locals and visitors to get out and explore Monaghan in a low-impact way that gentles their footprint, promotes wellbeing, and cultivates a culture of responsibility and respect for the outdoors. The campaign, supported with funding from Fáilte Ireland, Creative Monaghan and Monaghan County Council Arts Office, garnered strong engagement across Monaghan Tourism’s social platforms and further strengthened Monaghan’s identity as a creative and cultural destination.



Figure 34 - Scenic Sessions

Recreational Enhancements at Black Island, nestled amongst the parklands of Lough Muckno, have recently been completed, consisting of upgraded trails, bridge refurbishment, and the installation of new fixtures and fittings such as viewing points, seating and signage. With five walking trails to choose from, from easy ambles to steeper climbs to take in the higher viewpoints across Lough Muckno, each trail at Black Island is less than 2 km and can be completed in a quick half hour. These enhancement works were funded via ORIS and have significantly enhanced accessibility and the overall visitor experience at one of Monaghan’s most scenic outdoor locations, further empowering locals and visitors to get out and enjoy nature-based recreation in Co. Monaghan.



Figure 35 - Recreational Enhancements at Black Island



Figure 36 - Black Island

7. Community Engagement and Activation

7.1 Community Climate Action Programme



Traugh Gaels GFC- Solar PV System



Cremartin GAA- Solar PV System



**Monaghan Harps Replacement
Windows & Doors**



Monaghan Rugby Club- Insulation

A total of seventeen groups in the county were funded as part of the community climate action programme. In 2024 funding of €392,000 was secured to support 11 local climate action projects across County Monaghan. In addition, nearly €398,000 was secured for the Shared Island Climate Action initiative to support collaboration between 6 Monaghan communities and their counterparts in Northern Ireland, fostering collective efforts to meet climate and energy targets across the island.

Funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, the projects focus on the climate action themes of energy, transport, food & waste, shopping and recycling, and local environment and climate action. The overall objective of the Community Climate Action Programme is to support and empower communities, in partnership with Monaghan County Council, to shape and build low carbon and sustainable communities in a coherent way to contribute to national climate and energy targets.



Figure 37 - Lisdoonan Recreation & Development Association – installation of bicycle racks

In December 2025, Monaghan County Council submitted the fifth drawdown claim marking another milestone for the programme. To date, €612,000 of the total €770,000 available across both strands has already been drawn down.

Project progress remains positive. Over half (56%) of all community projects are now fully completed, with a further 38% at the final stages, demonstrating the commitment and capability of groups involved.

The range of climate actions delivered so far showcases the ambition and creativity of communities in Monaghan. Completed works include the installation of solar PV and battery storage, LED sports lighting, new biodiversity features, water refill stations, enhanced insulation, and upgraded bike racks and cycle shelters.

Collectively, these achievements highlight the real impact of community led climate action — improving local facilities, reducing emissions, and supporting more sustainable and resilient communities right across Monaghan.



Figure 38- Aghadrumsee St. Marcetan's CLG Fermanagh – Installation of low-level LED lighting at walking track

7.2 Climate Action Week 2025



Figure 39- Climate Action Week Poster

Monaghan County Council hosted its second Climate Action Week from 13th – 19th October 2025. The Week featured a comprehensive programme of events designed to foster connection, knowledge sharing, and active engagement with sustainability initiatives

The programme theme of Small Steps – Big Changes highlighted the many small actions we can take in our daily lives that add up to big, positive changes for our communities and our planet.



Figure 40 - of Climate Action Week with school poster competition

There was strong engagement with over 1,600 people taking part throughout the week. The activities, held across the county, sought to promote awareness of practical actions and

measures that individuals and communities can implement at both local and personal levels to contribute to a more sustainable future.

Examples include the visit of three local National schools to the Knocknagrave Environmental Centre. The Centre provides workshops with the goal of sparking curiosity, fostering a connection to and love of nature and encouraging achievement through active learning. The workshops help pupils explore and learn about water quality and Biodiversity.



Figure 41 - Workshops taking Place at Knocknagrave Environmental Centre

A Community tree planting event took place in Tom Youngs Woods in Monaghan DZ, in partnership with EUROPE DIRECT, Monaghan Tidy Towns, local schools, the Climate Action Team, and Monaghan County Council’s Horticultural team. Transition Year students from St. Louis Secondary School Monaghan, members of Teach na nDaoine, and local volunteers joined forces to plant a variety of young trees. The event was well attended and created a meaningful opportunity for people of all ages to take practical climate action. It also contributed to the EU’s 3 Billion Trees pledge—an important commitment under the European Green Deal aimed at planting at least three billion trees by 2030. The goal is to enhance forest health, advance climate and biodiversity objectives, and strengthen both rural and urban areas.



Figure 42 -Community Tree Planting at Tom Youngs Wood

7.3 Retrofit Roadshow in Monaghan Town



Figure 43 - Retrofit Roadshow with LOETB

The Climate Action Unit partnered with Monaghan Institute (CMETB) to host the Retrofit Roadshow from the 4th of November – 7th November 2025. Raising public awareness and engagement on Climate Action is a key component of the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan. There was good interest from the public in the no-nonsense practical advice on offer at the Retrofit Roadshow. The roadshow consisted of a fully equipped mobile Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) unit, (an initiative of LOETB & Mount Lucas training facility) which provided advice and training to the public on energy upgrades and retrofitting. The retrofit rig was located in the car park of Monaghan Institute where participants had the opportunity to learn about the principles and practices needed to effectively retrofit homes to reduce energy demand and carbon emissions while improving comfort and saving money. The public drop-in clinics proved very popular while an additional 30 people availed of workshops over the three-day event that included: Retrofit for Property owners and NZEB Fundamentals.