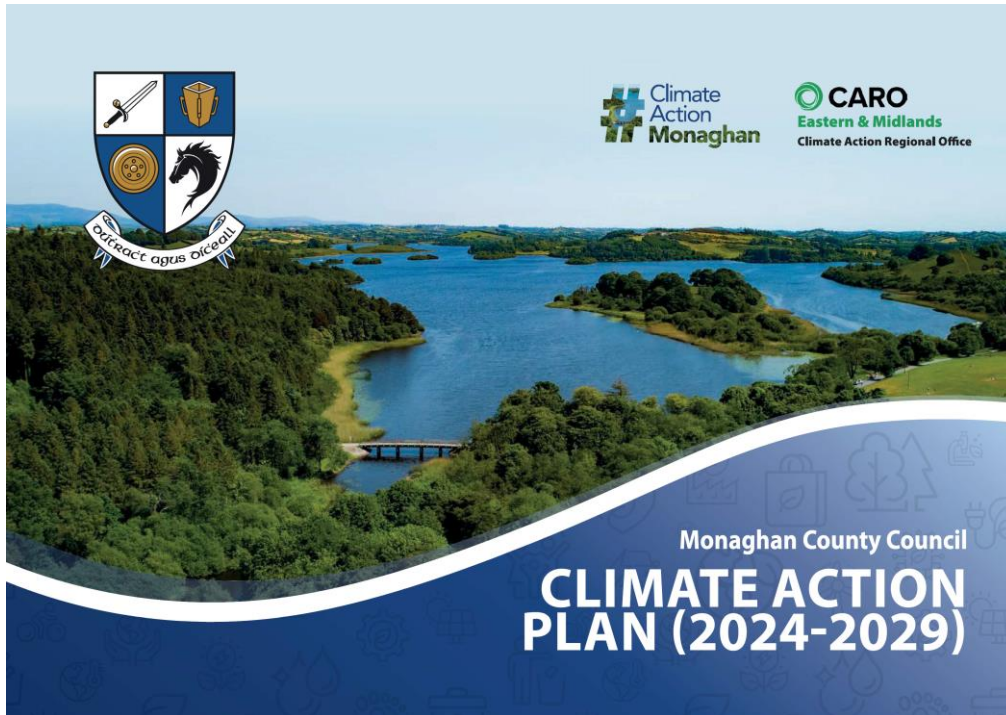




Monaghan County Council

Climate Action Plan (2024-2029)

Implementation Report for

Elected Members & Stakeholders 2024

Full Council Meeting 7th April 2025



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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.



Launch of Climate Action Plan on 26th March 2024

1. Introduction

This is the first progress report of the Monaghan County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. This progress report reflects the plan implementation period from January 2024 to February 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 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.

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 2024 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 2024 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 detailed 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]. ²They 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 action distribution across the themes:



Action Type Breakdown is as follows:

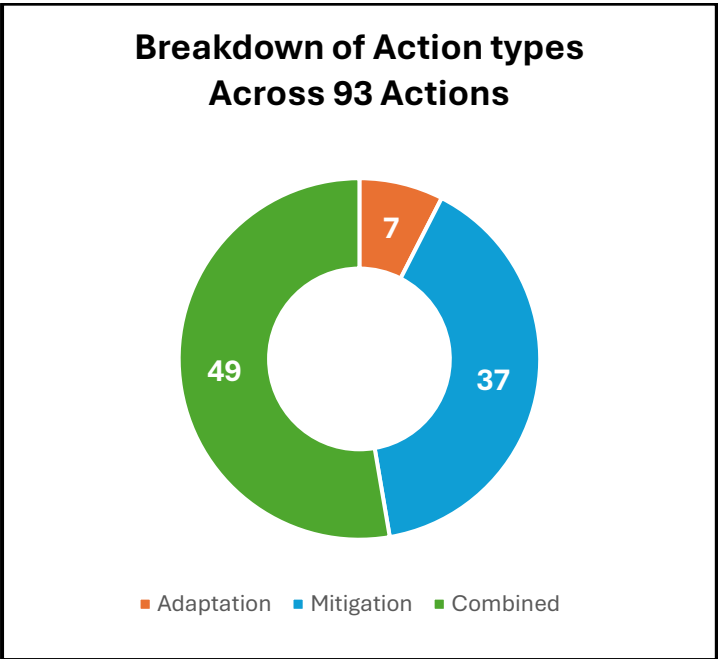


Figure 2 - Action Type by LACAP Actions

2.1 Overview of Climate Actions

Theme	No. of Actions	Completed	In Progress	Actions Not Started
Governance and Leadership	15	9	2	4
Built Environment and Transport	33	9	14	10
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	14	3	4	7
Communities: Resilience & Transition	16	12	1	3
Sustainability & Resource Management	15	3	9	3
Total No. of Actions	93	36	30	27

Table 1 - Overview of Climate Actions

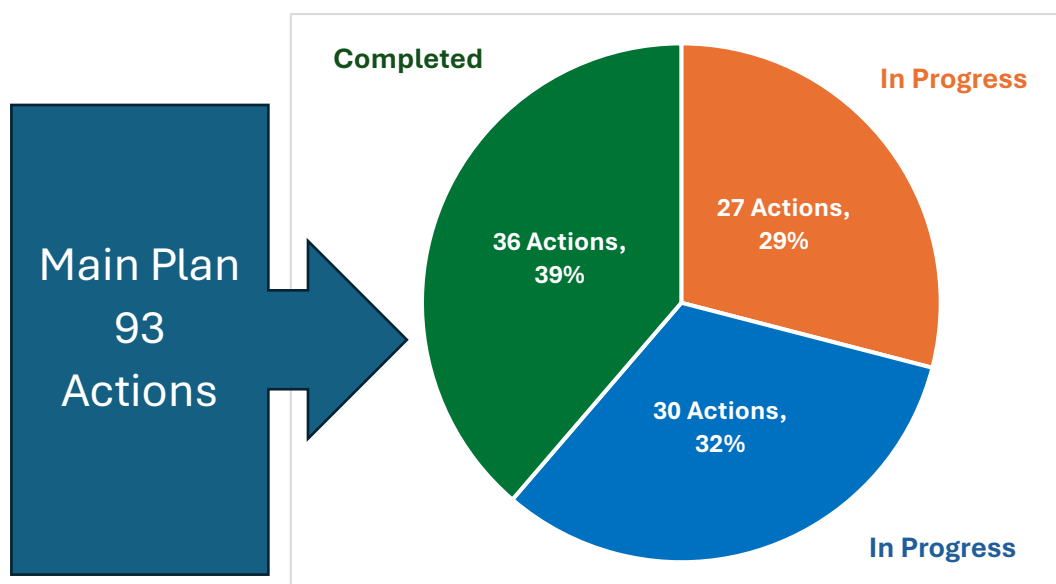


Figure 3 - Progress of Actions

As can be seen from table 1 and figure 3 above there are 93 actions in the main plan. There are 46 of these actions which are annual reoccurring actions which means they must be completed on an annual basis. As of the end of 2024, 39% of actions were completed, 30% actions were in progress and 29% of actions were not started. Great progress has been made in the implementation of the actions with 71% of actions either being completed or in progress within the first year of implementation.

2.2 Progress of Climate Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals

The LACAP actions completed during 2024 as well as LACAP actions currently progressing towards completion are achieving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the following ways.

Actions Completed in 2024		
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	- Ensure sufficient resources to implement this plan, to lead locally and engage citizens on climate change and biodiversity. - Retrofit social housing to ensure 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	- 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. - Increased awareness of Smarter Travel Programme to encourage local employers and communities to participate. - Continue to implement the County Walking and Cycling strategy. - Delivered annual Safe Routes to School programme to encourage staff and students in primary and post primary schools within the DZ to walk and cycle.
	Ensure all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development	- Continued to promote specific talks and workshops on High Nature Value farming to enable practical skills to be shared. - Empowered communities to achieve their sustainability and climate goals through climate related educational and awareness programmes including informational events, guidance documents and communication campaigns.
	Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and hazardous chemicals Increase water use efficiency Protect and restore water resources management	- Complete inspections on domestic wastewater treatment systems to increase water quality. - Promote upgrading of existing watermain networks by group water schemes to minimize leakage of treated water. - Promote implementation of biodiversity and source protection projects by group water schemes.

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	Increase share of renewable energy Improvement of energy efficiency	- Continue Councils good work on progress towards 2030 targets of a 51% reduction in GHG emissions and a 50% improvement of energy efficiency. - Undertaking a study on potential for district heating. - Funding application made to access the feasibility and market options for installing Solar PV on council owned buildings and social housing. - Promoting National Retrofitting Scheme and its range of supports to private householders making it more affordable to undertake home energy upgrades.
	Promoted development-orientated policies that support productive activities	- Developing an EV charging strategy to increase charging infrastructure on a county and regional basis. - Continue to administer the Croi Conaithe grant which helps reduce dereliction and bring old and decayed buildings back into use. - Promote remote working in Dighubs to assist the stimulation of balanced regional and sustainable development.
	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable	- All new council buildings are currently built to at least NZEB standards. - Continue to resolve local flooding issues. - Progressing flood alleviation schemes.
	Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all	Continue to retrofit social housing for citizens most in need.
	Protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage Inclusion resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change	- The Council continues to retrofit social housing in the county and in the DZ. All houses are retrofitted to at least a B2 standard. - All new council buildings are built to at least NZEB standards. This contributes to a more sustainable county by setting an example for sustainable development and future proofing infrastructure. - New public housing and buildings to incorporate the principles of climate action in terms of design, services and amenities.
	Substantially reduce waste generation Promote sustainable procurement practices	- Continue Environmental awareness programmes such as Bulky waste collections and Hazardous waste collections to ensure waste is recycled properly and hazardous waste is sent for appropriate treatment. - Increased awareness of Repairmystuff website to reduce waste and promote the circular economy throughout the county. - Preparation of a new green procurement policy.

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	Improving Education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change.	• Climate Action was embedded into the new County Development Plan and the new Corporate Plan. • Climate Action is listed as a standing item each quarter on the agenda of the Management Team meetings, further embedding climate action into the organisation. • Annual communications plan developed to raise awareness of the DZ and engage citizens on climate action. • Developed a range of informational material to provide citizens with the knowledge to understand and implement the climate transition in their own lives.
	Ensure conservation and restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems Prevent the introduction and reduce impact of invasive species	• Developing and implementing Nature-based Solutions and prioritise sustainable drainage systems • Supporting farmers in the shift towards a low-carbon resilient agriculture sector including diversification of farming practices and alternative land uses. • Expanding the sustainable management of 'taken in-charge' areas and the public realm, parks & green spaces by increasing areas managed as meadow/wildflowers and planting pollinator friendly trees and shrubs.
	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making.	• Ensuring the council is sufficiently resourced to implement this Plan, to lead locally and engage citizens on climate change and biodiversity. • Implementing the required organisational structures within the Council to ensure delivery of this Plan through all departments.
	Build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships	• Collaborating with other local authorities, government departments and agencies on the implementation of the LA CAP to create joined up and consistent approach • Promoting greater community and business engagement on climate action, circular economy, energy, water conservation, sustainable mobility and biodiversity • Implement a monitoring and reporting programme to measure progress on actions within Climate Action Plan.

Table 2 - Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals

3. DZ Actions Overview

The DZ Chapter of 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:

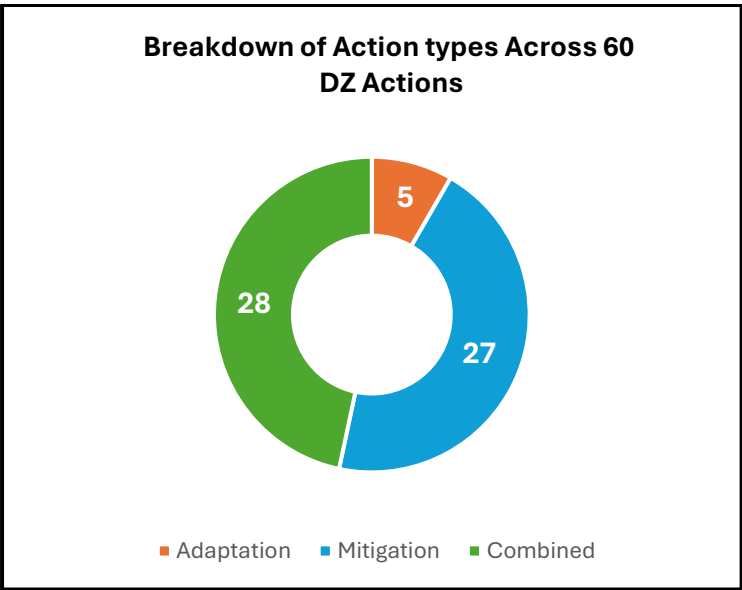


Figure 4 - Breakdown of Action Types in the DZ

3.1 Overview of DZ Actions

The implementation status of these DZ actions are as follows:

Theme	No. of Actions	Completed	In Progress	Actions Not Started
Governance and Leadership	7	3	3	1
Built Environment and Transport	26	7	13	6
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	8	2	0	6
Communities: Resilience & Transition	12	9	1	2
Sustainability & Resource Management	7	3	4	0
Total No. of Actions	60	24	21	15

Table 3 - Overview of DZ Actions

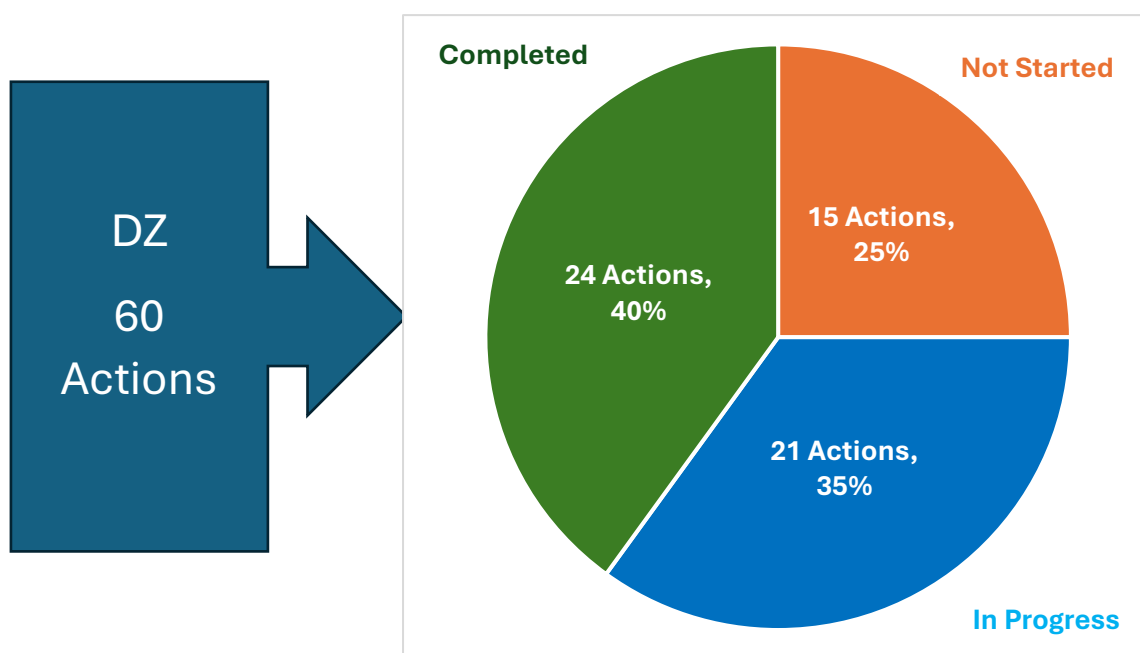


Figure 5 - Progress of DZ Actions

As can be seen from table 3 and figure 5 above there are 60 climate actions for the Decarbonisation Zone. There are 21 of these actions which are annual reoccurring actions which means they will be completed on an annual basis. As of the end of 2024, 40% of actions were completed, 35% actions were in progress and 25% of actions were not started. Great progress has been made in the implementation of the actions with 75% of actions either being completed or in progress within the first year of implementation.

3.2 Progress of DZ Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals

The DZ actions completed during 2024 as well as DZ actions currently progressing towards completion are achieving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the following ways.

DZ Actions Completed or in Progress in 2024		
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	- Continue to retrofit social housing and local authority buildings in the DZ to achieve a BER rating of B2. - Ensure sufficient resources to implement this plan, to lead locally and engage citizens on climate change and biodiversity.
	Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals, and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	- Ensure MCC is aligned with the circular economy by ensuring no single use products are being used. - Promote and support the safe routes to school programme to encourage staff and students in primary and post primary schools within the DZ walk and cycle to help reduce harmful transport emissions.
	Ensure all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development	- Continue to support the development of formal links between community, business and education bodies to facilitate collaborative climate action. - Developed an annual communications plan to raise awareness of the DZ and engage citizens in climate action.
	Increase share of renewable energy Improvement of energy efficiency	- Undertaking a feasibility study of the potential for district heating with a particular focus on the DZ. - Upgraded all public lighting in the DZ to LED's to increase energy efficiency. - Submitted application for the funding of a study to access the feasibility of installing rooftop solar on social housing and local authority buildings.
	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable	- Identifying suitable locations for EV charging points across the Monaghan Town DZ within the EV charging strategy. - Increased pedestrianised space in Monaghan Town DZ to safe active travel throughout the town.

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	Protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. Inclusion resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.	• Currently in the process of completing a Town Centre Health check in Monaghan town which is based on the requirements outlaid by the heritage council. • Study undertaken to identify vacant buildings in the DZ to adapt these for reuse and safeguard the towns natural heritage.
	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management.	• Promote the use of nature-based solutions (NBS) to reduce the impact of flooding where possible. This has been included in our New Monaghan County Development plan. • Supported community groups to carry out Climate related projects to further strengthen resilience in the DZ through the administration of the Community Climate Action Fund.

Table 4 - Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals in DZ Actions

4. Leadership & Governance

4.1 Governance Structure

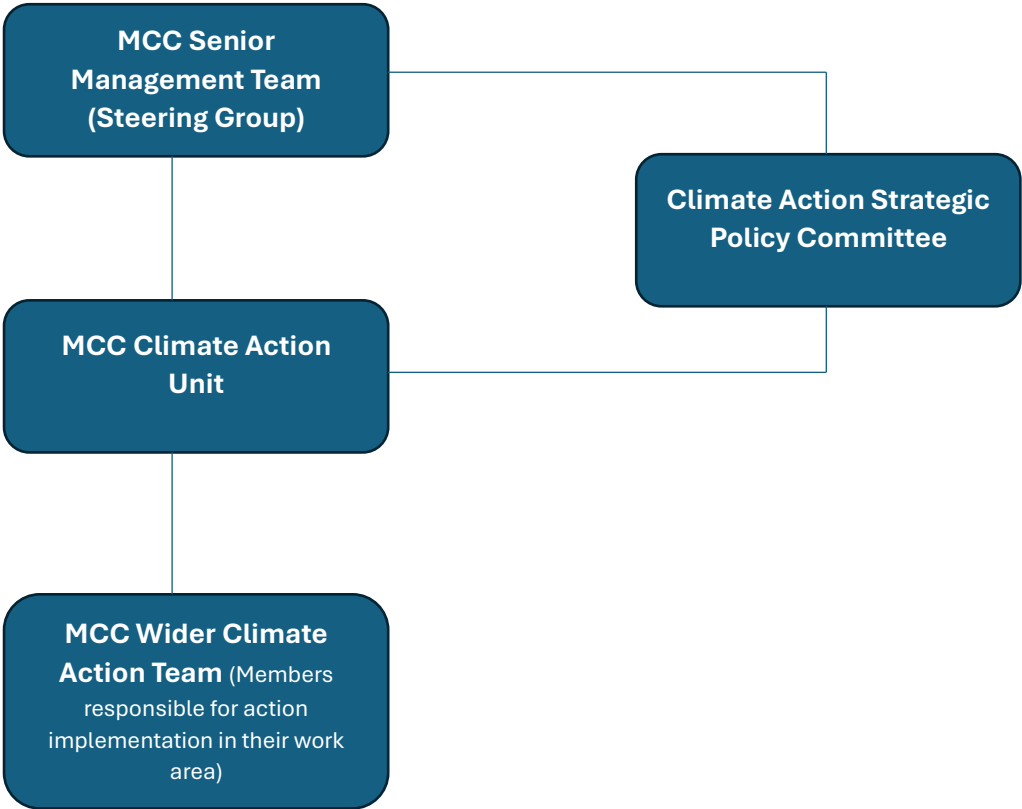


Figure 6 - Governance Structure



Council wide Climate Action 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

4.2 Integration of Climate Action Objectives into Plans and Operations

Rising to the challenge of climate change is central to the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In recognition of this, the Climate Action Unit worked in collaboration with the planning section to have climate action among the core themes of the proposed plan to enable the transition of County Monaghan to a Climate Resilient, Biodiversity Rich, Environmentally Sustainable County and Climate Neutral Local Economy. The Climate Action Unit also worked in collaboration with the corporate services team to have climate action among the core themes of the new Corporate Plan. This has ensured that Climate Action is embedded throughout the work of the organisation.

4.3 Staff and Elected Members Training and Capacity Building

There were several Climate Action training courses ran in 2024. 31 outdoor staff successfully completed Climate Action Delivering Action training. All new staff must also complete online Climate Action Awareness training, 37 new staff completed this training. At the end of Q3, the Climate Action Regional Offices ran several DZ Activation Workshops in areas such as Natural Environment, Built Environment, Community Activation and BioEconomy. Staff from different sections relevant to these areas attended these trainings.

4.4 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 7 - 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 SDG

5. Climate Mitigation Targets

5.1 Emission Reduction and Energy Efficiency Targets Being Pursued

Monaghan County Council has made great progress over this last 5 years in working towards the 2030 targets of a 51% reduction in GHG emissions and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency. As of the end of 2023 Monaghan County Council had increased its energy efficiency by 52% surpassing its target of 50%. Work continues to be progressed to improve this further.

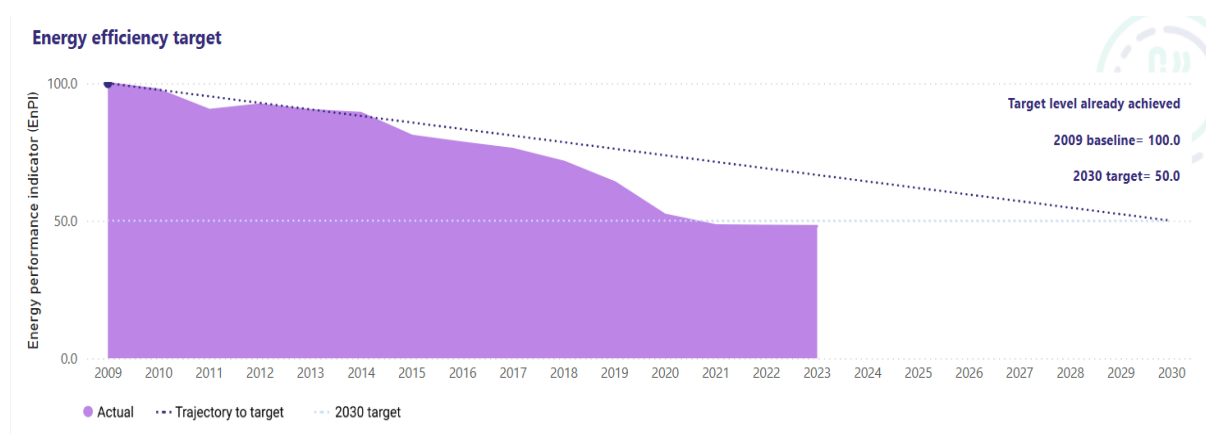


Figure 8 - MCC Energy Efficiency Progress

5.2 Total CO₂ emissions:

Total Emissions have been reduced by a combined 42% since the baseline year of 2016-2018. Further works are being undertaken to reduce electricity, transport and thermal emissions by 51% individually.

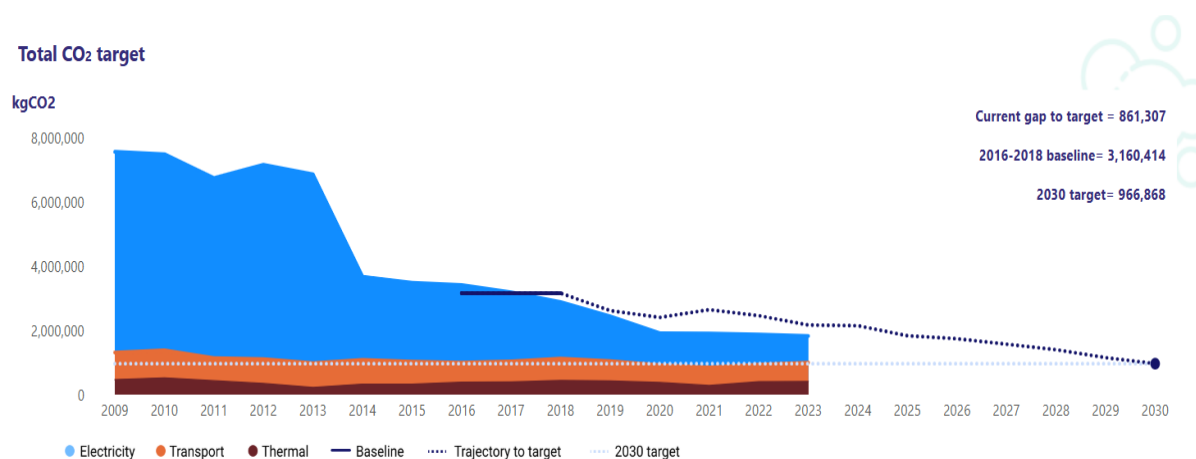


Figure 9 - MCC CO₂ Emissions Targets

5.3 Fossil Fuel CO₂ Emissions:

Fossil fuel emissions have been reduced by 12.5% since the baseline year of 2016-2018. Further works are being considered and undertaken to continue to decrease the gap to target for fossil fuel emissions. Monaghan County Council's portfolio of building assets has increased in recent years with an increase in the council's building footprint. In addition to this, there has also been a recruitment drive within the Council with the FTE number of employees raising year on year compared to that of the baseline year. All these factors have contributed to an increase in the overall carbon footprint which continues to be a challenge for all public bodies.

As part of the national SEAI Energy Pathfinder programme, Monaghan County Council are focusing on 3 of our Top 10 Significant Energy Users (SEUs) buildings, which includes Monaghan Leisure Centre, Carrickmacross Civic Offices and Clones Library Headquarters. A Tender competition is now in place to appoint a Multi-Disciplinary Design Consultancy Team to investigate deep retrofit energy efficient solutions to these buildings, this will significantly reduce the overall Fossil CO₂ emissions and is estimated to deliver 33% reduction and will significantly close the Gap to Target, to reach the 2030 and 2050 national and international decarbonisation targets.

The public sector 2030 target is 51% absolute carbon GHG emission reduction, and Monaghan County Council are committed to achieving this target through the combination of our results achieved to date, reducing public building carbon emissions through the Pathfinder Programme, exploring the upgrade of our fleet to include fossil-fuel alternatives like HVO, Electric, etc, and ensuring that all new proposed public buildings have a very high energy performance and are compliant with the required nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) standard.

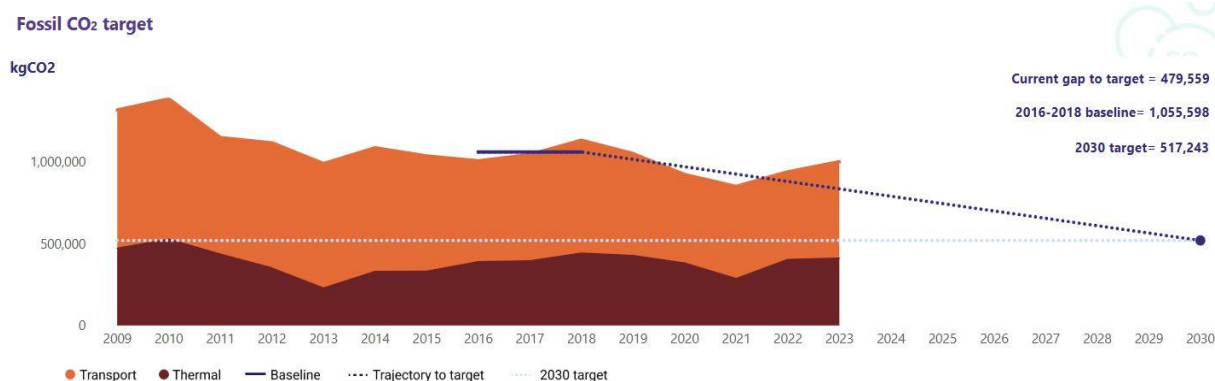


Figure 10 - MCC Fossil Fuel Emission Targets

5.4 Progress of Actions towards Emission Reduction & Energy Efficiency

The Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 developed a range of actions to focus efforts on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency. Within 2024, the following actions were in progress or completed for that year working towards reducing the County's greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency.

Mitigation Actions

Action No.	Action Aim	Action Progress
BE12	Benchmark and Track Progress in reducing council emissions.	Completed - MCC performance in 2023, energy efficiency had been increased over the target of 50% to 52%. Fossil fuel reduction is at 12.5% making good progress towards the target of 51% by 2030.
BE1	Improve Energy Efficiency of Council buildings to help deliver carbon reduction targets, maximising the use of renewable energy sources.	In Progress - Progress currently made with two new A-Rated buildings added to the Council's assets. The Peace Campus and Castleblayney Library. Further works are being undertaken through the SEAI Pathfinder programme, where MCC are appointing a MDDT that will focus on energy efficient design solutions on 3 of our Top 10 Significant Energy Users (SEUs) buildings, which includes Monaghan Leisure Centre, Carrickmacross Civic Offices and Clones Library Headquarters.
BE3	Ensure all new council buildings where possible are built to at least NZEB standards	Completed - All new buildings built in this last year have been to at least A3 standard.
BE5	Continue to complete BER reports/ Energy audits on council owned assets.	In Progress - The Energy Team ensures that the Council prepares and updates the SEU (Significant Energy User) Register, The ROO (Register of Opportunities). Arrange for DEC certificates, BER assessments and Energy Audits. Form this an annual Energy Action Plan (EAP) is prepared and aligned with Strategic Corporate Objectives and cost benefit analysis undertaken to ensure projects offer VFM prior to implementation

DZBE.2	Assess the Feasibility and install rooftop solar PV on local authority buildings and social housing across the DZ.	In Progress - Monaghan Peace Campus had solar installed in 2024. A joint funding application has been made to EUCF to assess different market options available for installing solar on LA buildings and social housing.
T2	Develop and Implement a Fleet Decarbonisation Roadmap as per LA guidelines	In Progress - The alternative fuel study completed in 2024 outlined a roadmap for MCC's fleet decarbonisation. To date, transition to electric vehicles is underway for the fleet up to 3.5 tonnes. For the larger vehicles a HVO trial commenced in 2024 and will continue into 2025 which has the potential to reduce emissions by up to 90%.
DZBE.8	Undertake a feasibility study of the potential for district heating for the Monaghan Town DZ and the County.	In Progress - Monaghan County Council in collaboration with Cavan and Leitrim County Council's are currently in the procurement process to appoint a consultant to undertake a feasibility study on district heating. A consultant should be appointed by the end of Q1. Each local authority will have their own individual feasibility study.
GL 4	Join SEAI Public Sector Decarbonisation Partnership Programme.	Completed - MCC is a Registered Partner with SEAI and are currently working on the pathfinder programme with SEAI.

Table 5 - Progress of Mitigation Actions towards Emission Reduction and Energy Efficiency

Combined Actions

Action No.	Action Aim	Action Progress
T 5	Develop an EV charging strategy and implementation plan to support the roll out of EV charging.	In Progress – Consultant has been appointed to develop regional strategy for Monaghan, Cavan and Leitrim. The timeline for development of the strategy is 6-9 months.
T 8	Deliver active travel and greenway projects to achieve transport modal shift by encouraging cycling, walking, and running as an alternative to travel by car.	Completed – Six projects completed construction in 2025. A further 2.485km of active travel and greenway infrastructure has been added to help achieve transport modal shift away from private vehicles.
T 10	Deliver Safe Route to School Programme to encourage students and staff, to engage in active travel.	Completed – Funding was allocated for 4 safe routes to school active travel projects in 2024. Delivery plans completed and schemes being progressed through NTA PAG process.

GL 6	Provide clear and coordinated communications campaigns to help raise public awareness and engagement on Climate Action and delivery of MCC's Climate Action Plan.	Completed – Communications campaigns included Community Climate Action Fund, Event with Pilgrim Foods, Retrofit Rig and Climate Action Week.
GL 1	Embed Climate Action into all Council plans, policies and strategies including the County Development Plan, Corporate Plan, Annual Service Delivery Plan, Team Operational plans, individual Personal Development Plans, and section risk registers to ensure the delivery of climate actions across all departments.	Completed - Rising to the challenge of climate change is central to the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In recognition of this, the climate action unit worked in collaboration with the development plan team to have climate action among the core themes of the proposed plan to enable the transition of County Monaghan to a Climate Resilient, Biodiversity Rich, Environmentally Sustainable County and Climate Neutral Local Economy. Also the climate action unit worked in collaboration with the corporate plan team to have climate action among the core themes of the proposed new corporate plan.
CRT 3	Support communities to access funding for environmentally sustainable projects or action on climate change.	Completed - A total of 17 groups in the county are funded under the Community Climate Action Fund to implement local climate projects. A total of €392,000 has been allocated to support 11 local climate projects within the County. In addition a further 6 Monaghan communities have received funding from the Shared Island Strand 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.
CRT 8	Support the development and ongoing work of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs)	In Progress - The Climate Action Unit continues to explore opportunities for funding to help deliver the suite of actions contained with the Climate Action Plan. In parallel with the above activity the Climate Action Unit have met with the sustainable energy community (SEC) mentors for Monaghan to explore how the Council can best encourage and support existing and new SECs to achieve their emission reduction objectives.
CRT 10	Use the Green Efficiency Grant to empower businesses to implement green technology solutions	Completed - 11 businesses have been approved in 2024 for the Energy Efficiency grant empowering them to implement green tech solutions.

Table 6 - Progress of Combined Actions towards Emission Reduction and Energy Efficiency

6. Climate Adaptation Goals

6.1 LA CAP 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.

Figure 11 - 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 2024, the team was convened 2 times in response to the following extreme weather event types:

- Wind (x2) for Storm Isha and Darragh

6.2 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 2024, the following actions were in progress or completed for that year working towards making Monaghan more resilient against severe weather conditions posed by Climate change.

Adaptation and Combined Actions

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 were required.
T4	Participate in Rehabilitation of roads over peat working group to determine most environmentally friendly techniques.	In Progress - Department of Transport established a working group with Monaghan CC and other LA's to develop guidelines on how to rehabilitate roads over peat and a process that needs to be adhered to. DOT will publish and issue guidelines to all LA's in Q4 2025.
NEGI7	Ensure proposals for Sustainable Drainage Systems are included in all development proposals, where practicable.	In Progress - This is considered on a case-by-case basis, not all applications will be submitted with SuDs, however the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 has placed focus on SuDs.
DZ BE.6	Promote the use of nature-based solutions to reduce the impact of flooding where possible	Completed - this is considered best practice to promote, as such the text has been included in the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031.
T17	Maintain transport network to take account of risk of surface water floods	Completed – Maintenance operations conducted by each Municipal District as needed.
GL 2	Ensure that Climate Action is listed as a standing item each quarter on the agenda of the Management Team meetings.	Completed – Climate Action is now listed as a standing item each quarter on the agenda of the management team meetings.

GL 3	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.	Completed - To date there have been 3 quarterly SMT and Council Wide Climate Action Team Meetings respectively. 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. 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.

Table 7 - CCRA Risks Addressed

7. 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.

7.1 Alternative Fuels Study (Roads Department)

Action T1 of the LACAP requires the council to “*Complete a Feasibility Study for Alternative Fuels for Council HGVs to identify viable low and no carbon vehicle fleet options and implement recommendations from this study*”. Monaghan County Council launched A Feasibility Study on the Adoption of Alternative Fuel Vehicles for Local Authorities in partnership with Ards and North Down Borough Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Louth County Council, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Belfast Met and East Border Region through our consultant Fehily Timoney. In this feasibility study several alternative fuels were looked at for council vehicles to see where emissions could be reduced. Following recommendations within this report MCC are now trialling HVO in all HGV’s, which has the potential to reduce emissions by up to 90%.

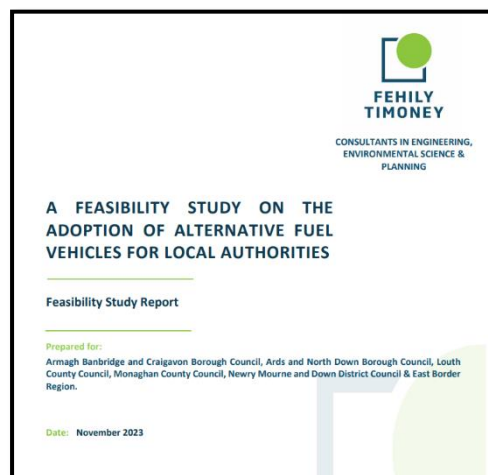


Figure 12 - Alternative Fuels Study

7.2 Smarter Mobility and Active Travel (Active Travel)

Monaghan County Council Active Travel section continues to make great 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*”. In 2024, 6 projects completed construction which added 2.485km of Active travel routes throughout the county. Additionally, funding was allocated for four “*Safe Route to School*” Active Travel Projects in 2024. The delivery plans for these have been completed.

7.3 Social Housing: Retrofitting and Energy Management (Housing Department)

Action BE2 of the LACAP requires the council to “Continue retrofitting council owned social housing to improve BER ratings”. Monaghan County Council Housing department continue to make great progress in retrofitting its social housing to make all houses more energy efficient and reduce GHG emissions. As of the end of 2024, 39% of social housing in the county had achieved a BER of B2 or higher, while in the DZ area of Monaghan, this figure stood at 45%. This includes all retrofitted homes and new builds. The council is also currently exploring an Area Based Retrofit Programme that would allow private residents to have their homes retrofitted by the same company working on social housing in their area. By taking advantage of economies of scale, this approach could help lower costs for private homeowners seeking to retrofit their properties. Below are a few examples of houses retrofitted by The council to improve the BER ratings.

Before:



After:



Before:



After:



7.4 Biodiversity and Natural Resources Protection, Enhancement and Restoration (Biodiversity Office)

Biodiversity and Natural Resources Protection, enhancement and restoration are critical to combating climate change by ways of adaptation. Action NEGI12 requires The Council to *“Explore opportunities for deeper engagement with the Agriculture Sector on Environmental and Climate issues and potential local interventions to protect and/or improve water quality, biodiversity, and other environmental assets.”* In 2024, the biodiversity officer held a farm walk which was attended by over 40 farmers during Heritage week to showcase best practice farming practices. Along with this representative from 6 farming organisations have been invited to join the newly formed Biodiversity working group to help develop the new Biodiversity Action Plan. The Biodiversity Officer marked Climate Action Week at Ballybay Community College by planting a Wildflower Meadow on school grounds. Assisted by the Horticulturist, the children prepared the ground, sowed the seeds and planted two apple trees of native Monaghan providence.



Figure 13 - Biodiversity Wildflower Meadow Planting at Ballybay Community College

7.5 Enhanced Public Realm and Regeneration (Regeneration Team)

In 2024, the Regeneration section carried out various initiatives and projects to enhance the public realm and support regeneration efforts. A study was conducted to identify vacant buildings in the DZ in support of the Town Centre first policy. The Monaghan Town centre first plan reached its final stages of completion during 2024 and will outline several projects which will then be delivered over the next few years. Additionally, the Regeneration team continued to administer the Croi Conaithe vacant property grant encouraging the reuse of vacant buildings and addressing dereliction.

7.6 Green Enterprise and Economic Development (Local Enterprise Office)

In 2024, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) implemented a range of initiatives and events to help promote sustainability and climate action among businesses in Monaghan. Action CRT11 in the LACAP requires the Council to *“Expand the Green Business support scheme enabling businesses to measure their existing carbon footprint and obtain recommendations to reduce it.”* The green business support scheme proved very successful, with 36 businesses being approved last year. Additionally, the green energy efficiency grant was rolled out with 11 businesses being approved, empowering them to adopt green technology solutions. An ESG cluster was also established, leading to 15 businesses being awarded an accreditation.

7.7 Circular Economy

During 2024 Environmental Services issued a waste facility permit to Carrickamore Quarries and Waste Facility, Carrickmacross. The permit facilitates the production of recycled aggregate from certain construction and demolition waste streams and is the first such facility of its kind in the County. The National End-of-Waste (EoW) Decision N001/2023 issued by the EPA established criteria determining when recycled aggregate ceases to be waste under Regulation 28 of the European Union (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 – 2020. End-of-Waste (EoW) is a mechanism whereby a material is recycled or recovered so that it ceases to be considered waste and can be used as a resource. These processes support the circular economy transition increasing production and markets for secondary materials and reducing the need for primary raw materials. In summary, the development of this facility is very welcome as the production of recycled aggregates has been identified as key waste prevention measure and is a priority action in the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030. Environmental Services also ran several environmental awareness programmes. Almost €100k funding was secured from DECC under the Anti Dumping Initiative (ADI) Program to deliver several environmental projects including awareness projects. During 2024, under ADI MCC arranged a hazardous waste collection day aimed at the Farming Community. Over 20 tonnes of hazardous chemical waste and old products were collected through this program and sent for appropriate treatment. In addition, MCC under the ADI program progressed in 2024 a subsidised bulky waste month whereby members of the public could bring unwanted bulky goods to the Carrickmacross and Scotch Corner Recycling Centre. 1122 people availed of the subsidised service and over 90,000kgs of bulky goods were collected. In Q4 of 2024, MCC introduced a pilot scheme where all coffee cups supplied to schools were replaced with reusable cups, with the view to introduce this to more schools in 2025.

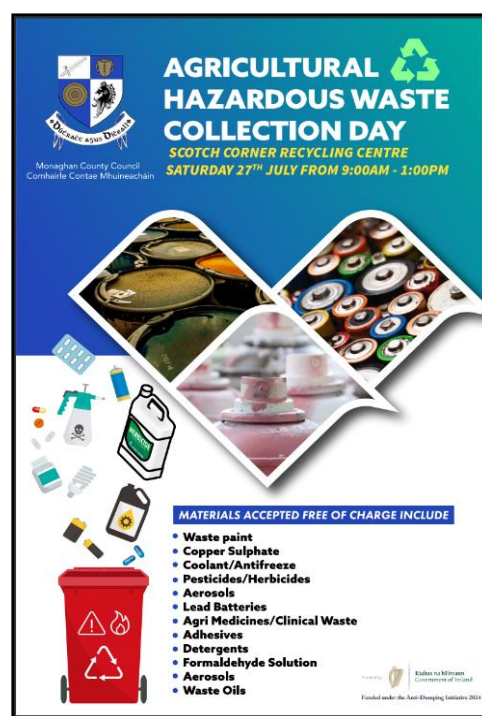


Figure 14 - Poster for MCC Hazardous Waste Collection Day

7.8 Water Quality and Management

Monaghan County Council Rural Water Team continue to annually complete inspections on Domestic Wastewater treatment systems to increase water quality status. The minimum number of inspections required under the national inspection plan for 2024 was 41, 48 of these inspections were completed. Under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2024-2026 the expert panel have completed their work for five of the eight measures in the programme and made its recommendations and have allocated a total of €685,471 for County Monaghan, this allocation is to assist Group Water Schemes in the completion of Safe Yield Assessment of their sources, to complete source protection plans, complete Cryptosporidium risk assessments and to assist in capital replacement in treatment plants.

7.9 Green Public Procurement

A green public procurement strategy is currently being drafted. Currently green procurement is incorporated in several procurement documents ranging from selection criteria to award criteria.

7.10 Roads and Transportation

The Roads and Transportation section continue to work on the decarbonisation of the fleet as previously mentioned in section 7.1, with HVO currently being trailed in HGV's. Action T3 in the LACAP requires the Council to "Expand pilot study on alternative "low carbon" pavement material for use on road network, with a focus on implementation of the resulting recommendations. Low Energy Bound Materials (LEBM) using Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) Pilot Project". Monaghan County Council continue to lead this project and in 2024, working with other local authorities, implemented a national approach by utilising cold-mix RAP technologies, delivering 2.3 km of resurfaced regional road in County Cavan, 5.0 km of resurfaced regional and local road in County Louth, 5.4 km in County Monaghan, and the surfacing of a 3.1 km long greenway in County Cork. Continuous monitoring of these sites has shown that the materials are performing well. By understanding and enhancing the trials annually, in 2024, one project experienced a carbon saving of over 80% compared to traditional HMA. We are satisfied with the material's performance and durability from the previous trials, so we decided in 2025 to use the funding provided to set up a depot that will be the Hub for cold-mix RAP production throughout the County. With its centralised location and good National Road Network links, Lislanley Yard was chosen as the preferred location. Works are well underway, and upon its completion, this site will be futureproofed as a centralised cold-mix RAP production Hub for the entire County with a strategic location having optimum transport links to all parts of the County. The Department of Transport has funded this Hub and we are obtaining accreditation from the EPA and NSAI that will be achievable once works are complete. Additionally, in 2025, we aim to use the remaining Department of Transport allocation to resurface our deteriorating regional and local road network. The use of cold-mix RAP provides a significant advantage by enhancing the condition of deteriorating pavements while simultaneously minimising environmental harm. Monaghan County Council has successfully completed 26.3km of resurfacing projects across the nation, resulting in an estimated reduction of 644.3 tons of CO2 emissions compared to traditional hot mix asphalt.



Figure 15 - Image of RAP processing site



Figure 16 - Mobile Rap Plant set up in Co. Monaghan

7.11 Libraries and Climate Action

During 2024 there was a lot of collaboration between the Climate Action Unit and the libraries and culture section. Action CRT11 requires the Council to “*Support the roll out of Creative Ireland climate action funding to incorporate the arts into climate action community engagement*”. In 2024, Creative Monaghan supported several creative/arts projects with a climate/environmental focus such as Eco Arts Workshops for children and a separate event for adults. Eco Beats which was a workshop series for teens, making instruments out of discarded plastics. The SCRAP (sustainable fashion and upcycling programme for teens) was ran successfully and established a repository of sewing stations in library branches. Additionally, there were several events ran in the library during Climate Action week. Action DZ CRT.4 requires the council to “*Facilitate the distribution of Energy Saving Kits to the public through local libraries*”. During the year these kits were available in all libraries around the county, with the kit being barrowed 24 times last year to help members of the public to make their homes more energy efficient.



Figure 17 - Energy Saving kits available in all libraries

7.12 Roll out of Smart reporting Software to track progress with Climate Actions

The Climate Action unit (with the support of the Information Systems team) successfully rolled out Microsoft Planner to help drive delivery of the 153 actions with the Climate Action Plan. Following testing and commissioning of the software a training webinar was held with actions owners on the 5th of Dec. Action “DZ GL1” requires the Council to “*Implement a monitoring and reporting programme on the implementation of the Monaghan Town DZ actions.*” This

programme will enhance the tracking and monitoring of actions more efficiently, enabling all council sections to upload and monitor progress through a centralised system.

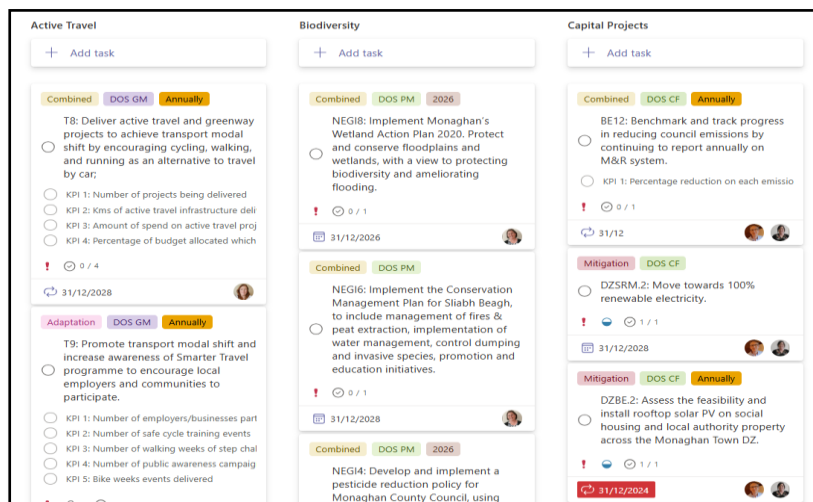


Figure 18 - Screenshot of Monitoring and Reporting application

7.13 Sustainable Tourism

In 2024, Monaghan Tourism launched multiple campaigns to promote sustainable tourism. Their 2024 promotional campaign entitled “C’Mon to Monaghan” ran from July to September across Monaghan Tourism and Monaghan County Council’s social media channels. This campaign featured a video series showcasing around 20 local businesses that enhance Monaghan’s tourism offering, including food producers, crafters, visitor attractions, and activity providers. This series primarily focused on supporting and promoting local food and craft producers, increasing their brand awareness among consumers, reinforcing the “shop local” message to boost the county’s economy, and fostering a sustainable tourism ethos by highlighting businesses that contribute to the green and circular economies.



Figure 19 - C'Mon to Monaghan campaign

8. Community Engagement and Activation

8.1 Community Climate Action Fund



Glaslough Development Association – installation of solar panels

A total of seventeen groups in the county are 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.



Clontibret O'Neills GAA – installation of water refill station

In December the first drawdown claim under the fund was made by Monaghan County Council to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. There were five groups that had completed elements of their climate action projects by that time. Works included installation of solar panels and battery storage, water refill stations, composting bins, wall insulation and purchasing of equipment for a community garden.



Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council - community garden elements

8.2 Climate Action Week 2024

14 – 18th October 2024



Monaghan County Council hosted its first Climate Action Week from 14th – 18th October. Monaghan Climate Action Week offered a range of ways for people to connect, learn, share, and engage with initiatives and activities which aimed to build a brighter future for everyone.



Launch of Climate Action Week with school poster competition

Twenty events were held over the week with over 600 attendees in total. Events ranged from biodiversity & sustainability workshops, information on green business grants & supports, to climate conversations with all ages.

Monaghan Climate Action Week was designed to inspire action and drive positive change at local level and to highlight some of the initiatives underway across our County. The week's events aimed to raise awareness on climate actions and measures we can all take at a personal and local level.

8.3 Retrofit Roadshow in Monaghan Town



Images from Retrofit Roadshow

The Climate Action Unit partnered with Monaghan Institute (CMETB) to host the Retrofit Roadshow from the 30th of September - 2nd October. 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: Introduction to Circular Economy, Retrofit for Homeowners and NZEB Fundamentals.