



# Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report


**For**  
**Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Monaghan  
County Council**


*Determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental  
Assessment for Monaghan County Council Climate  
Change Adaptation Strategy prepared under the National  
Climate Change Adaptation Framework*

July 2019

**ON BEHALF OF**  
**Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)**

Prepared by  
**Enviroguide Consulting**

 *Dublin*  
3D Core C, Block 71, The Plaza,  
Park West, Dublin 12

 *Kerry*  
19 Henry Street  
Kenmare, Co. Kerry

 [www.enviroguide.ie](http://www.enviroguide.ie)  
 [info@enviroguide.ie](mailto:info@enviroguide.ie)  
 +353 1 565 4730



## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Revision	Status	Author(s)	Reviewed	Approved	Issue Date
1.0	Draft	Mairead Foran <i>Environmental Consultant</i>	Jim Dowdall <i>Director</i>	Jim Dowdall <i>Director</i>	16/04/2019
2.0	Final	Muriel Ennis <i>Principal Consultant</i>	Mairead Foran <i>Environmental Consultant</i>	Muriel Ennis <i>Principal Consultant</i>	19/04/2019

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	BACKGROUND .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT .....	1
2.2	CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION .....	2
2.2.1	<i>International Context</i> .....	2
2.2.2	<i>EU Context</i> .....	2
2.2.3	<i>National Context</i> .....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>MONAGHAN'S CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	CONSULTATION .....	4
3.2	APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT .....	20
<b>4</b>	<b>DETERMINING WHETHER AN SEA IS REQUIRED .....</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1	REQUIREMENT TO CARRY OUT SEA – PRE-SCREENING CHECKLIST .....	21
<b>5</b>	<b>SEA SCREENING DETERMINATION .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>APPENDIX 1 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY – ACTIONS.....</b>	<b>26</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Monaghan Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Objectives .....	3
Table 2 Environmental Authorities Contacted and Responses .....	4
Table 3 Public Consultation Submissions and Responses.....	7
Table 4 Screening determination for Annex II (1.), Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects.....	23
Table 5 Screening determination for Annex II (2.), Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects.....	25

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Pre-Screening Decision Process .....	22
---	----

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

The Earth's Climate is changing. While natural fluctuations in climate are considered normal, emerging research and observational records from across the world show rates of change that are far greater than those experienced in recent history. Global temperatures have risen and are projected to rise further bringing changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather. Ireland's climate is changing in line with global patterns and these changes are bringing significant and wide ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

Climate change is now recognised as a global challenge with policy responses required in terms of both mitigating the causes of climate change and in adapting to the now inevitable consequences of our changing climate. Action at local level is vitally important to help reduce the risks and impacts of climate change across communities.

This local authority Climate Change Adaptation Strategy forms part of Ireland's national strategy for climate adaptation as set out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was produced under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.<sup>1</sup>

It is tasked with mainstreaming climate change adaptation over time into all functions, operations and services of the local authority. It seeks to inform or 'climate proof' existing plans and policies produced and implemented by the local authority. This ensures a considered, consistent and coherent approach, facing head-on the challenges of a changing climate. Crucially, it also helps in building resilience within the local authority organisation itself as well as across all communities.

## 2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

### 2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or program, or variation to a plan or program, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive<sup>2</sup> requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans, programs or variations to these.

The SEA Directive has been transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004) and The Planning and Development Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004). These Regulations have since been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011) and the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011). The criteria as set out in Annex II of The SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment and as also set out in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004) need to be considered while drafting of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015* (S.I. No. 25/2016). Available at <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/46/enacted/en/htm>

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

This SEA screening report is consistent with the process as recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publication entitled *Development of Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland – Synthesis Report 2003*, specifically Stage 1 (Screen of Plans and Programmes) and furthermore uses the criteria for SEA screening criteria set out in the SEA Directive.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has also been produced for this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in line with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

## 2.2 Climate Change Adaptation

### 2.2.1 International Context

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is an international environmental treaty adopted in May 1992. The framework's objective is "*to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system*". The framework did not set binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions and contained no enforcement mechanisms. However, the framework outlined how specific international treaties may negotiate further action towards its key objective. **The Paris Agreement 2015** is a protocol set within the context of the UNFCCC (ratified by Ireland on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016) and it is aimed at:

- Limiting global warming to less than 2°C above pre-industrial level and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C; and
- Building resilience and increasing the ability to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The agreement states the need for Parties to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans.

### 2.2.2 EU Context

The 2013 EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change encouraged all Member states to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. It sought better informed decision making through the identification and addressing of gaps in knowledge about adaptation. The European Climate Adaptation Platform Climate-ADAPT, was developed as a resource mechanism to help users' access and share information on adaptation.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is a voluntary, bottom up, approach for cities and local governments to combat Climate Change and move towards a low emission, resilient society. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy brought the Compact of Mayors and the EU Covenant of Mayors under one international body in January 2017 incorporating over 9,000 cities and local governments.

### 2.2.3 National Context

The 2012 National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) was Ireland's first step in developing a national policy on adaptation actions to combat the impacts of climate change.

The National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development 2014 restated the policy position of the NCCAF, 2012. Greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change were to be addressed in parallel national plans under an evolving climate policy to 2050.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 was a landmark national milestone in the evolution of climate change policy in Ireland. It provides the statutory basis for the national transition objective laid out in the National Policy Position (as per above). Further to this, it made provision for and gives statutory authority to both the National Mitigation Plan (NMP), published in 2017 and the

National Adaptation Framework (NAF) published in 2018. This Local Adaptation Strategy forms part of the National Adaptation Framework.

The Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines 2018 provides guidance to Local Authorities to develop their own Climate Action Adaptation Strategy. In developing this adaptation strategy Monaghan County Council has been consistent with these guidelines.

### 3 MONAGHAN'S CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

The purpose of the Monaghan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is to achieve the national objective of becoming a more climate resilient society and economy by 2050. In order to help tackle current and future challenges that climate change can present, Monaghan County Council have set out a number of key objectives in their strategy, under six thematic principles. Table 1 below outlines Monaghan County Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy objectives per theme.

**TABLE 1 MONAGHAN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY OBJECTIVES**

<b>G1: Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations</b>	
<b>1</b>	To ensure the progression and implementation of local climate change adaptation actions in Monaghan County Council.
<b>2</b>	To ensure that climate change adaptation actions are mainstreamed into all activities of Monaghan County Council.
<b>3</b>	To respond effectively to severe weather events through building increased capacity within Monaghan County Council.
<b>4</b>	To build resilience in Monaghan County Council to support service delivery.
<b>5</b>	To identify and progress opportunities from the pursuing of climate change adaptation efforts in Monaghan County Council.
<b>G2: Infrastructure and Built Environment</b>	
<b>1</b>	To increase the resilience of road infrastructural assets in County Monaghan.
<b>2</b>	To increase the resilience of Monaghan County Council owned building assets including housing stock
<b>G3: Land-use and Development</b>	
<b>1</b>	To integrate climate action considerations into land-use planning policy in Monaghan County Council
<b>2</b>	To explore policies to assist Monaghan County Council transition to a climate resilient low carbon society.
<b>G4: Drainage and Flood Management</b>	
<b>1</b>	To support the management and mitigation of the risk and impact of flooding in Co. Monaghan
<b>2</b>	To support the provision of effective drainage systems to mitigate the risk and impact of flooding
<b>G5: Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure</b>	
<b>1</b>	To provide for enhancement of natural environment to work positively towards climate action
<b>2</b>	To promote effective bio-diversity management and enhance protection of natural habitats and landscapes
<b>3</b>	To protect Heritage and Cultural Infrastructure
<b>G6: Community Health and Wellbeing</b>	
<b>1</b>	To build capacity and climate resilience within communities
<b>2</b>	To liaise and work with communities to deliver local climate change projects.
<b>3</b>	To protect and promote climate resilient community infrastructure.

Under each theme in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy there are a number of actions that have been detailed to achieve each Objective. All the actions per theme can be found in Appendix 1.

### 3.1 Consultation

#### 3.1.1.1 Environmental authorities

Article 5 (4) of the SEA Directive specifies that each Member State should designate the relevant Environmental Authorities which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibility, are likely to be concerned with the potential environmental effect of any plan or programme. Article 9(5) and 9(6) of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended) details the need for the competent authority (Monaghan County Council) to consult the relevant environmental authorities regarding the development of certain plans and programmes. On an Irish context, as a minimum the following environmental authorities should be contacted when developing county plans and programmes:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- The Minister for the Environment (Minister Communications, Climate Action and Environment) – *where the planning authority considers that a plan might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation; and*
- The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine) - *where the planning authority considers that a plan might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment.*

Monaghan County Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 sent the Environmental Authorities list in Table 2 the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the SEA Screening Report for comment. Table 2 also details the response from each Environmental Authority and how Monaghan County Council incorporated or responded to the comments.

**TABLE 2 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES CONTACTED AND RESPONSES**

Environmental Authority	Summary submission	Monaghan Co. Co. response
EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ireland's Environment; An Assessment 2016 (EPA, 2016) report identifies climate change as one of three key systemic issues that need to be tackled in Ireland. This report highlights the need for us to accelerate mitigation actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to implement adaptation measures to increase our resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change;</li> <li>• Climate change poses significant challenges for Ireland and a comprehensive national response is required if the national transition objective of a low carbon, climate resilient economy and society is to be achieved. We acknowledge that the Strategy forms a key part of this response at local authority level. We acknowledge that the Strategy has been prepared in line with the Local Authority Adaptation</li> </ul>	<p>Monaghan County Council took on board the EPA comments and incorporated them through-out the strategy. The update reference to policies and practice that should be adhered to are taken on board, for example see section 1 of the Strategy.</p> <p>This SEA Screening Report has been produced in line with both the Habitats Directive and SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 435 of 2004).</p>

	<p>Strategy Development Guidelines (DCCAE, 2018).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Strategy could include a schematic, clarifying the relationship between the Strategy and the Climate Act, National Adaptation Framework, adaptation guidelines etc.</li> <li>• The Strategy should include a commitment to align with and incorporate any relevant recommendations that may arise within regional climate adaptation plans/programmes/strategies prepared over the lifetime of the Strategy.</li> <li>• In preparing and in implementing the Strategy, we recommend that opportunities should be sought to align with and collaborate with adjacent local authorities.</li> <li>• In preparing and implementing the Strategy, you should ensure that any potential negative environmental impacts are minimised. You should also seek to maximise the many potential co-benefits of climate adaptation measures for human health, biodiversity, water quality, flood risk management, land use planning (including land use zoning), and other interrelated areas. In considering and assessing the range of adaptation options available, we recommend that those measures with the potential to yield multiple environmental and societal benefits are prioritised.</li> <li>• We recommend that the Strategy includes a commitment that potential adverse cumulative / in-combination environmental effects are accounted for when considering, selecting and implementing specific adaptation measures. This is important to ensure that environmental sensitivities under the Habitats Directive and Water Framework Directive are protected. Furthermore, in preparing and assessing the Strategy, it will be important to ensure that ways to recognise maladaptation early are identified, and strategies to counter this are put in place.</li> <li>• The Plan should refer to the relevant OPW flood risk management plans. The second cycle of OPW flood risk management plans is currently underway and will cover areas outside the scope of the first cycle, including more rural areas. These should help inform the Strategy and future reviews.</li> </ul>	
--	--	--



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the need to adapt to climate change across our society and economy, and become more energy and resource efficient, to support this transition to a low carbon society, a clear link could be made with the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be included in the Strategy. This would help to show how Ireland is progressing these at all levels in the governance hierarchy, and, how progress in achieving the environmental related SDGs is being progressed at a local authority level.</li> <li>Where changes to the Strategy are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 435 of 2004).</li> <li>You should ensure that the Strategy complies with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where relevant. Where Appropriate Assessment is required, the key findings and recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and the Strategy.</li> <li>We note the intention in section 6.3 to develop an Implementation Plan to deliver the actions set out in the Strategy. This implementation plan should consider the requirements of the SEA Directive and Habitats Directive, as relevant and appropriate.</li> </ul>	
The Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment	No response	
The Department of Housing Planning and Local Government	No response	
The Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht	No response	
The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	No response	
The Department of Rural and Community Development	No response	

### 3.1.1.2 Public Consultation

Post Environmental Authority consultation, Monaghan County Council conducted a four-week period from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019, where the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, with the accompanying SEA Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment Screening report were presented for public consultation. The follow outreach methods were used:

- Advertisement in Northern Standard on 23/05/2019;
- Adverts placed on Northern Sound radio commencing 27/05/2019;
- Documents placed on Public Display in County Libraries on 27/05/2019;
- Documents placed on public Display in all 3 MD offices on 27/05/2019;
- Environment services staff gave a presentation at LCDC Meeting on 18/06/2019;
- Environment services staff gave a presentation at PPN meeting on 11/06/2019;
- Notification placed on Council website on 27/05/2019;
- Notifications sent out via Council Facebook during week commencing 10/06/2019; and
- Notification uploaded on the [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) public consultation portal on 28/05/2019.

A number of submissions came in during the consultation period, and 11 submissions were received, from the following:

- Fingers and Toes Community Childcare;
- IFA Regional Executive;
- Cavan Monaghan Green Party;
- Economic Development and Enterprise unit, Monaghan County Council;
- Irish Water;
- Gas Networks Ireland;
- National Federation of Group Water Schemes;
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Portlaoise, Co. Laois;
- Transition Monaghan; and
- Individual from Kilygoan, Monaghan.

### 3.1.1.3 Summary of Public Consultation submissions

Table 3 details the summary of responses from each of the organisations and individuals that made a submission to the public consultation period and summaries the response from Monaghan County Council to each of the submissions is detailed.

**TABLE 3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS AND REPSONSES**

Organization / individual	Summary submission	Monaghan Co. Co. response
Fingers and Toes Community Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission proposing Improved recycling of plastic bottles in public spaces</li> <li>• Proposing the reduction of packaging in towns through chamber of commerce activities</li> <li>• Proposing the provision of digester units in council yards for use by public/Tidy Towns</li> </ul>	<p>Additional action as follows:</p> <p><i>Support Waste Management policies for the reduction of waste and other initiatives that promote the transition to a circular economy and as per the objectives of the Con-nacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan</i></p>
IFA Regional Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission proposing the progression of actions in the Teagasc Climate Action Roadmap.</li> <li>• Submission on the need for more initiatives and funding for farmers to develop green</li> </ul>	<p>Monaghan County Council will liaise and collaborate with the Department on the practical implementation of actions from the sectoral</p>

	energy projects such as solar panels, anaerobic digesters, and biomass boilers	adaptation strategy where it is within the remit of local authority functions.
Cavan Monaghan Green Party	Action G1.1 –proposing that rather than an internal County Council adaptation steering group being set up, that a separate climate action SPC should be established. Suggestion that at the very least any steering group set up should include a cross-section of society including business, young people, farming representatives.	Monaghan County Council is proposing to create a new Environment and Climate Change Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). The Climate Action steering group will focus on the practical implementation of actions through all services and functions of Monaghan County Council.  The main aim of this iteration of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is to mainstream into Monaghan County Councils functions, wider adaptation policies will come in future iterations.
	Action G1.4 – proposing to expand the Chapter on mitigation into a comprehensive and updated mitigation strategy that aims to implement directives on the National Mitigation strategy at local level	Additional action as follows:  <i>Building on adaptation planning actions set out in this strategy, support and compliment the practical implementation of actions arising from the National Climate Action Plan – to Tackle Climate Break-down (as revised and updated annually), across the broad range of functions of the local authority to achieve the national climate ambition i.e. decarbonisation targets to 2030 and objectives to 2050.</i>
	Action G1.5 – proposing that instead of climate change being an “integral consideration” of the objectives of the new corporate plan that there should be an express requirement to undertake climate impact screening to assess the climate impacts of actions undertaken by Monaghan County Council such that, following screening, any actions which are not in line with the Paris Agreement targets are not progressed.	One of the fundamental requirements of adaptation is that it be mainstreamed into all functions and services of Monaghan County Council. This provides for climate adaptation to be an integral consideration in all plans, strategies, and policies of Monaghan County Council. It is crucially important that climate adaptation is integrated as a key consideration of the corporate plan for the term of the new council.  All plans, strategies, and policies will be monitored to establish how Climate action measures.

	Action G1.7 – proposing that Monaghan County Council consider implementing the Preston City Council model of procurement in order to create a low carbon and sustainable local economy	Action updated to the following:  <i>Monaghan County Council to promote green procurement for goods, services and works to support environmental and wider sustainable development objectives to assist in balancing cost effectiveness and sustainable development, representing both short term and long term value for money.</i>
	Action G1.12 – proposing that the business continuity plan also considers the impacts on all council buildings including housing to lessen future extreme weather impacts and to ensure contingency and response measures are in place for energy shortages, power outages, and damage.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Develop a Business Continuity Plan to identify and address specifically, the impacts associated with extreme weather events on all council buildings and on all functions/services of the local authority and explore potential opportunities to increase resilience. This will involve:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Preparing for critical services disruptions,</i></li> <li>- <i>Assessment of the Local Authority's back-up system's infrastructure and review of power outage back-up procedures to ensure resilience.</i></li> <li>- <i>Assessment of staff working environments during extreme temperatures.</i></li> <li>- <i>Developing a network access contingency plan for identified essential key staff to be able to access all essential council systems remotely.</i></li> <li>- <i>Ensuring contingency and response measures are in place for energy shortages, power outages, and damage from extreme weather.</i></li> </ul>
	G1.15 – proposing that Monaghan County Council to engage a dedicated funding consultant and hold regular workshops to assist and support groups applying for funding.	Monaghan County Council continues to work with local communities to leverage funding and support the delivery of local projects. Support to local communities in respect of applying to funding will continue with respect to any climate action projects.
	G1.16 – Submission proposing that in addition to developing new ideas, existing ideas	Action updated to the following:

	should be fully implemented to support low carbon transition.	<i>Through the work of the LEO, support businesses in integrating climate change considerations into existing business practices and operations and in developing existing and new ideas seeking to capture opportunities associated with environmental and technological advances that support low carbon transition.</i>
	G2.1 – proposing that climate emergency is made the main consideration in the design, planning and consideration of all road infrastructure projects thereby making sustainable transport central to the process.	It is important for any project that Climate change is integrated as a key consideration from inception to delivery. Climate change will be a key consideration in such projects.
	G2.4 – Submissions under this action are: Consider reduction in widths of roads to decrease speed and maintenance whilst in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets. Recommend the promotion of cycling as a form of transport. Recommend the installation of segregated cycle ways between towns and villages to facilitate cycling as a mode of transport. Recommend the promotion of minor roads as cycleways to promote cycling and enhance tourism potential similar to the national cycling network in the UK Recommendation that there should be a mass promotion of timetables of existing local link bus services	Additional action added:  <i>Promote walking, cycling, active participation and healthy living and the development of infrastructure to support this</i>
	Submission proposing that all council owned housing and buildings are retrofitted to BER A standard as a matter of priority.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Review ways to improve house building and maintenance plan standards to reduce the impacts of climate change on occupants taking into consideration the proposed Public Sector Decarbonisation Strategy.</i> <i>This may include:</i> - Assessing the need to increase repair standards and maintenance frequency to mitigate against the expected increase in structure deterioration during extreme events and expected plant growth during growing season. - Exploring the need and benefit of updating or installing new technologies in new builds and when

		<i>retrofitting including energy efficient technology, water harvesting systems, plumbing technology, and heating and cooling systems</i>
	G3.2 – raises concerns over the granting of Planning permission to Aldi in Monaghan.	The issue of the granting of planning permission for this development is not within the remit of the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.
	G3.3 - proposing that streets and street trees are considered in green infrastructure considerations as trees provide water retention, improve air quality, can reduce vehicle speeds thereby making towns more hospitable to vulnerable road users	Action updated to the following:  <i>Promote the integrated planning, design and delivery of green infrastructure (e.g. parks, green areas, tree provision) to promote the wider benefits of green infrastructure such as the provision of shading to alleviate heat stress, the supporting of urban biodiversity, the provision of water retention and flood alleviation, and improving air quality.</i>
	G3.4 – Promotion of south-facing developments to reduce heating needs	This would be a consideration for the practical applications for the provision of section 10n of the planning and development act
	G3.5 – Submission proposing that community owned renewables such as community energy co-operatives are promoted. Suggestion to have a locally owned, not for profit, community renewable energy company to provide advice and finance projects.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Promote development in County Monaghan that encourages clean electricity, minimises fossil fuel consumption, encourages sustainable land-use and promotes community energy cooperatives.</i>
	G3.6 – Submission proposing making it a planning requirement for employers to have a % of car parking spaces allocated for EV charging infrastructure.	There is presently ongoing work at national level to devise policies and standards and exempted development regulations for EV spaces and infrastructure, which will be required to be implemented in Co. Monaghan
	G5.1 – proposing that the development of a native tree planning strategy should be in collaboration with community groups such as TT groups and private enterprises and that it should incorporate the creation of edible landscapes.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Develop a strategy to undertake and implement an active native Tree Planting programme in collaboration with community groups in the context of climate adaptation in conjunction with an awareness campaign that informs of the benefits to communities of improving air quality, offsetting carbon emissions,</i>



		<i>promoting biodiversity, limiting flood risk, reducing urban heat, as well as aesthetic value, whilst ensuring appropriate trees are provided in appropriate locations.</i>
	G5.2 – Submission proposing that this action be removed	Removed action as it is incorporated in the above (G5.1)
	G5.3 – Submission proposing that the promotion of community gardens and small scale growing of crops are promoted as a means to boost food security and as educational tools.	Green infrastructure takes a variety of forms from large scale landscapes village greens hedgerows, road buffers planted gardens etc. Community gardens would be acceptable use to promote green infrastructure and would be considered as part of the definition of same.
	G5.5 – Submission proposing that edible landscapes are included in natural borders/buffers.	All types of landscapes would be open to consideration as natural borders/buffers provided that they do not constitute invasive species
	G5.7 – Submission proposing the planting of trees in suitable tree pits to reduce the need for irrigation/watering when established.	This would a key consideration of any tree planning program as outlines in G5.1
	G5.9 - Submission proposing that the National Pollinator Plan is implemented and cease the use of chemical weed control where possible, apart from invasive species control.	Action updated to the following:  <i>To promote and implement the national pollinator plan in Monaghan County Council</i>
	G5.10 – Submission proposing that a survey is conducted of all public parks and waterways to ascertain severity of invasive species with specific targets with regards to reducing spread and subsequent elimination.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Explore more environmentally friendly methods to control weed growth and to reduce the spread of invasive species.</i>
	G5.11 – Submission proposing to pursue funding to progress the conservation of wetlands and other sensitive biodiverse sites.  G5.13 – Submission proposing to enhance the role of the Ballybay Wetlands Centre as an Environmental Education Centre	Additional action as follows:  <i>Work closely with communities, landowners, state agencies to progress the conservation of wetland areas and other sensitive biodiverse sites as appropriate and promote awareness of the environmental benefits of such sites. (e.g. through the Ballybay Wetlands Centre)</i>
	G6.1 – Submission proposing that environmental studies and climate change be included in school curriculums.	The action has been included in Chapter 13 of the National Climate Action Plan.
	G6.2 – Submission proposing to: (i) Develop a strategy to accommodate and integrate climate refugees.	This action in the first instance will establish the most vulnerable communities experiencing the high im-

	<p>(ii) Create a resilient and sustainable local food system</p> <p>(iii) Develop a mental health strategy to consider the mental health effects of climate change and ecological destruction.</p>	<p>pacts of climate change and will explore initiatives to help alleviate and mitigate those impacts. Monaghan County Council will implement national policy in respect of any displacement/integration of climate refugees as this arises.</p>
	G6.4 – Submission proposing to encourage all groups not just tidy towns groups to consider climate change adaptation in their respective plans and program areas.	<p>Action updated to the following:</p> <p><i>Encourage all community groups (e.g. Tidy Towns groups) to consider climate change adaptation in their multi annual plans and programs.</i></p>
	Submission proposing that urban regeneration is adequately represented on the steering group	<p>Action G1.1 updated to the following:</p> <p><i>Establish an adaptation Steering Group with appropriate staff representatives from across all key departments of Monaghan County Council to ensure the successful implementation of the actions of this Climate Change Adaptation strategy and to report on progress.</i></p>
Economic Development and Enterprise unit, Monaghan County Council;	G3 - Submission proposing additional action "Promote the regeneration of town and village centres and support property owners in the reuse/repurposing of existing buildings and densification of town centres"	<p>Action G1.1 updated to the following:</p> <p><i>Promote the regeneration of town and village centres and support property owners in the reuse/repurposing of existing buildings and densification of town centres</i></p>
	Submission proposing the promotion of walking, cycling, active participation and healthy living and the development of infrastructure to support this	<p>Additional action as follows:</p> <p><i>Promote walking, cycling, active participation and healthy living and the development of infrastructure to support this.</i></p>
	G4.1 - OPW welcomed the reference to the OPW Minor Works Scheme and the commitment to incorporate adaptation measures to take account of climate change impacts. G4 – Note in submission that OPW does not have a responsibility for storm water flooding	Noted
OPW	Irish water did not include any specific recommendations as such in their submission. Submission simply stated that Irish Water welcomes the strategy and that IW looks forward to collaborating with Monaghan County Council in implementing the measures set out in the Government Action Plan and in the	Noted



	Draft Climate Change Sectoral Plan: Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure.	
Irish Water	Submission suggests the inclusion of an additional action <i>“Encourage policy to support and develop anaerobic digestion plants and renewable gas injection infrastructure”</i>	This type of policy would be best dealt with under central government and national policy.
Gas Network Ireland	Submission proposing that consideration be given to the establishment of a stakeholder forum where stakeholders have an opportunity to input into the implementation process for G1.1.	The Climate Action steering group will focus on the practical implementation of actions through all services and functions of Monaghan County Council.
National Federation of Group Water Schemes	Submission proposing that liaison should include engagement with the GWS sector and other community organization for G1.9	Action updated to the following:  <i>Liaise, collaborate and work in partnership with local communities and with the sectors identified in the NAF, subject to funding, in the delivery of the Government approved sectoral adaptation actions, where they relate and are relevant to the functions and activities of the council at local level/in local communities</i>
	Submission proposing the incorporation of “protecting surface water bodies against eutrophication” into this action for G5.1	Action updated to the following:  <i>Develop a strategy to undertake and implement an active native Tree Planting programme in the context of climate adaptation in conjunction with an awareness campaign that informs of the benefits to communities of improving air quality, offsetting carbon emissions, promoting biodiversity, protecting surface water bodies against eutrophication, limiting flood risk, reducing urban heat, as well as aesthetic value.</i>
	Submission proposing the Inclusion of “biodiversity” considerations in the action G6.7	Action updated to the following:  <i>For future community projects seeking public funding through Monaghan County Council, integrate climate change and biodiversity considerations as a criterion for assessment in order to promote climate resilience.</i>
	Action G1.1 – Submission proposing that rather than an internal County Council adaptation steering group being set up, that a separate climate action SPC should be established. Suggestion that at the very least any	Monaghan County Council is proposing to create a new Environment and Climate Change Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). The Climate Action steering group will

	steering group set up should include a cross-section of society including business, young people, farming reps	focus on the practical implementation of actions through all services and functions of Monaghan County Council.
The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	DAFM suggested the inclusion of some narrative within the strategy to recognise the impacts and consequences of climate change on agricultural activities/landuses in the context of the functions and remit of Monaghan County Council	Update narrative within the strategy to recognize the impacts and consequences of climate change on agricultural activities/landuses in the context of the functions and remit of council activities and services.
Transition Monaghan	Action G1.4 – Submission proposing to expand the Chapter on mitigation into a comprehensive and updated mitigation strategy that aims to implement directives on the National Mitigation strategy at local level	This is an Adaptation strategy that sits within the National Adaptation Framework and complements and supports existing mitigation works being undertaken by Monaghan County Council as well considering the actions of the recently published Climate Action Plan 2019
	Action G1.5 – Submission proposing that instead of climate change being an “integral consideration” of the objectives of the new corporate plan that there should be an express requirement to undertake climate impact screening to assess the climate impacts of actions undertaken by Monaghan Co.Co. such that, following screening, any actions which are not in line with the Paris Agreement targets are not progressed.	One of the fundamental requirements of adaptation is that it be mainstreamed into all functions and services of Monaghan County Council. This provides for climate adaptation to be an integral consideration in all plans, strategies, and policies of Monaghan County Council. It is crucially important that climate adaptation is integrated as a key consideration of the corporate plan for the term of the new council. All plans, strategies, and policies will be monitored to establish how Climate action measures
	Action G1.7 – Submission proposing that Monaghan County Council consider implementing the Preston City Council model of procurement in order to create a low carbon and sustainable local economy.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Monaghan County Council to promote green procurement for goods, services and works to support environmental and wider sustainable development objectives to assist in balancing cost effectiveness and sustainable development, representing both short term and long term value for money.</i>
	Action G1.12 – Submission proposing that the business continuity plan also considers the impacts on all council buildings including housing to lessen future extreme weather impacts and to ensure contingency and response measures are in place for energy shortages, power outages, and damage.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Develop a Business Continuity Plan to identify and address specifically, the impacts associated with extreme weather events on all</i>

		<p><i>council buildings and on all functions/services of the local authority and explore potential opportunities to increase resilience. This will involve:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>- Preparing for critical services disruptions,</i></li> <li><i>- Assessment of the Local Authority's back-up system's infrastructure and review of power outage back-up procedures to ensure resilience.</i></li> <li><i>- Assessment of staff working environments during extreme temperatures.</i></li> <li><i>- Developing a network access contingency plan for identified essential key staff to be able to access all essential council systems remotely.</i></li> <li><i>- Ensuring contingency and response measures are in place for energy shortages, power outages, and damage from extreme weather.</i></li> </ul>
	G1.15 – Proposing that Monaghan County Council to engage a dedicated funding consultant and hold regular workshops to assist and support groups applying for funding.	Monaghan County Council continues to work with local communities to leverage funding and support the delivery of local projects. Support to local communities in respect of applying to funding will continue with respect to any climate action projects.
	G1.16 – Submission proposing that in addition to developing new ideas, existing ideas should be fully implemented to support low carbon transition.	<p>Action updated to the following:</p> <p><i>Through the work of the LEO, support businesses in integrating climate change considerations into existing business practices and operations and in developing existing and new ideas seeking to capture opportunities associated with environmental and technological advances that support low carbon transition.</i></p>
	G2.1 – Submission proposing that climate emergency is made the main consideration in the design, planning and consideration of all road infrastructure projects thereby making sustainable transport central to the process.	It is important for any project that Climate change is integrated as a key consideration from inception to delivery. Climate change will be a key consideration in such projects.
	G2.4 – Submissions under this action are:	Additional action as follows:

	<p>(iii) Consider reduction in widths of roads to decrease speed and maintenance whilst in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets. Recommend the promotion of cycling as a form of transport. Recommend the installation of segregated cycle ways between towns and villages to facilitate cycling as a mode of transport. Recommend the promotion of minor roads as cycleways to promote cycling and enhance tourism potential similar to the national cycling network in the UK</p> <p>(iv) Recommendation that there should be a mass promotion of timetables of existing local link bus services</p>	<p><i>Promote walking, cycling, active participation and healthy living and the development of infrastructure to support this</i></p>
	<p>G2.7 – Submission proposing that all council owned housing and buildings are retrofitted to BER A standard as a matter of priority.</p>	<p>Action updated to the following:</p> <p><i>Review ways to improve house building and maintenance plan standards to reduce the impacts of climate change on occupants taking into consideration the proposed Public Sector Decarbonisation Strategy.</i></p> <p><i>This may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessing the need to increase repair standards and maintenance frequency to mitigate against the expected increase in structure deterioration during extreme events and expected plant growth during growing season.</li> <li>- Exploring the need and benefit of updating or installing new technologies in new builds and when retrofitting including energy efficient technology, water harvesting systems, plumbing technology, and heating and cooling systems</li> </ul>
	<p>G3.2 – Submission raises concerns over the granting of Planning permission to Aldi in Monaghan</p>	<p>The issue of the granting of planning permission for this development is not within the remit of the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.</p>
	<p>G3.3 - Submission proposing that streets and street trees are considered in green infrastructure considerations as trees provide water retention, improve air quality, can reduce vehicle speeds thereby making towns more hospitable to vulnerable road users.</p>	<p>Action updated to the following:</p> <p><i>Promote the integrated planning, design and delivery of green infrastructure (e.g. parks, green areas, tree provision) to promote the wider benefits of green infrastructure such as the provision of shading to</i></p>

		<i>alleviate heat stress, the supporting of urban biodiversity, the provision of water retention and flood alleviation, and improving air quality.</i>
	G3.4 – Promotion of south-facing developments to reduce heating needs.	This would be a consideration for the practical applications for the provision of section 10n of the planning and development act
	G3.5 – Submission proposing that community owned renewables such as community energy co-operatives are promoted. Suggestion to have a locally owned, not for profit, community renewable energy company to provide advice and finance projects.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Promote development in County Monaghan that encourages clean electricity, minimises fossil fuel consumption, encourages sustainable land-use and promotes community energy cooperatives.</i>
	G3.6 – Submission proposing making it a planning requirement for employers to have a % of car parking spaces allocated for EV charging infrastructure.	There is presently ongoing work at national level to devise policies and standards and exempted development regulations for EV spaces and infrastructure, which will be required to be implemented in Co. Monaghan
	G5.1 – Submission proposing that the development of a native tree planning strategy should be in collaboration with community groups such as TT groups and private enterprises and that it should incorporate the creation of edible landscapes.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Develop a strategy to undertake and implement an active native Tree Planting programme in collaboration with community groups in the context of climate adaptation in conjunction with an awareness campaign that informs of the benefits to communities of improving air quality, offsetting carbon emissions, promoting biodiversity, limiting flood risk, reducing urban heat, as well as aesthetic value, whilst ensuring appropriate trees are provided in appropriate locations.</i>
	G5.2 – Submission proposing that Action G5.2 is removed.	Removed action G5.2 from the strategy (now addressed in Action G5.1)
	G5.3 – Submission proposing that the promotion of community gardens and small scale growing of crops are promoted as a means to boost food security and as educational tools.	Green infrastructure takes a variety of forms from large scale landscapes village greens hedgerows, road buffers planted gardens etc. Community gardens would be acceptable use to promote green infrastructure and would be considered as part of this action . There is no need to elaborate specifically for

		community gardens over any other natural landuse.
	G5.5 – Submission proposing that edible landscapes are included in natural borders/buffers.	All types of landscapes would be open to consideration as natural borders/buffers provided that they do not constitute invasive species
	G5.7 – Submission proposing the planting of trees in suitable tree pits to reduce the need for irrigation/watering when established.	This would be a key consideration of any tree planning program as outlines in action G5.1
	G5.9 - Submission proposing that the National Pollinator Plan is implemented and cease the use of chemical weed control where possible, apart from invasive species control.	Amend Action 5.9 to promote and implement the national pollinator plan in Monaghan County Council and amend G5.10 to promote more environmentally friendly methods to control weed growth and reduce the spread of invasive species
	G5.10 – Submission proposing that a survey is conducted of all public parks and waterways to ascertain severity of invasive species with specific targets with regards to reducing spread and subsequent elimination.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Promote measures that reduce the spread of invasive species in public parks and public areas.</i>
	G5.11 – Submission proposing to pursue funding to progress the conservation of wetlands and other sensitive biodiverse sites.  G5.13 – Submission proposing to enhance the role of the Ballybay Wetlands Centre as an Environmental Education Centre.	Additional action as follows:  <i>Work closely with communities, landowners, state agencies to progress the conservation of wetland areas and other sensitive biodiverse sites as appropriate and promote awareness of the environmental benefits of such sites. (e.g. through the Ballybay Wetlands Centre)</i>
	G6.1 – Submission proposing that environmental studies and climate change be included in school curriculums.	Such an action has been included in Chapter 13 of the national Climate Action Plan and implement nationally.
	G6.2 – Submission proposing to: -Develop a strategy to accommodate and integrate climate refugees. -Create a resilient and sustainable local food system -Develop a mental health strategy to consider the mental health effects of climate change and ecological destruction.	G6.2 in the first instance will establish the most vulnerable communities experiencing the high impacts of climate change and will explore initiatives to help alleviate and mitigate those impacts. Monaghan County Council will implement national policy in respect of any displacement/integration of climate refugees as this arises.
	G6.4 – Submission proposing to encourage all groups not just tidy towns groups to consider climate change adaptation in their respective plans and program areas.	Action updated to the following:  <i>Encourage all community groups (e.g. Tidy Towns groups) to consider climate change adaptation in</i>



		<i>their multi annual plans and programs</i>
	G6.7 – Submission proposing an additional action on “Climate Crisis Preparedness for Communities” along with accompanying supporting actions:	The development of targeted climate change public awareness campaigns is encouraged in Action G6.1 and would provide for much of the suggested new objective as local communities derive their own ways of responding and addressing the impacts of past events and potential future events. The examples given can be explored at community level.
	Submission querying the application of chemical weed killer	Action updated to the following:  <i>Explore more environmentally friendly methods to control weed growth and to reduce the spread of invasive species.</i>
Individual from Kilygoan, Monaghan.	Submission querying the application of chemical weed killer	Action (G5 10) updated as follows:  <i>Explore more environmentally friendly methods to control weed growth and to reduce the spread of invasive species</i>

### 3.2 Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has also been prepared for this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in line with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The Report concludes:

*In conclusion, further to a screening of Monaghan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for possible significant effects on Natura 2000 sites no significant effects were identified.*

The AA Screening Report accompanies Monaghan’s Climate change Adaptation Strategy.

## 4 DETERMINING WHETHER AN SEA IS REQUIRED

The objective of the SEA Directive for the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment is to

*“provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this*

*Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”<sup>3</sup>*

Post the Environmental Authority and Public Consultation, the updated Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was screened for SEA requirements. The below details the SEA screening process carried out.

#### **4.1 Requirement to carry out SEA – Pre-Screening Checklist**

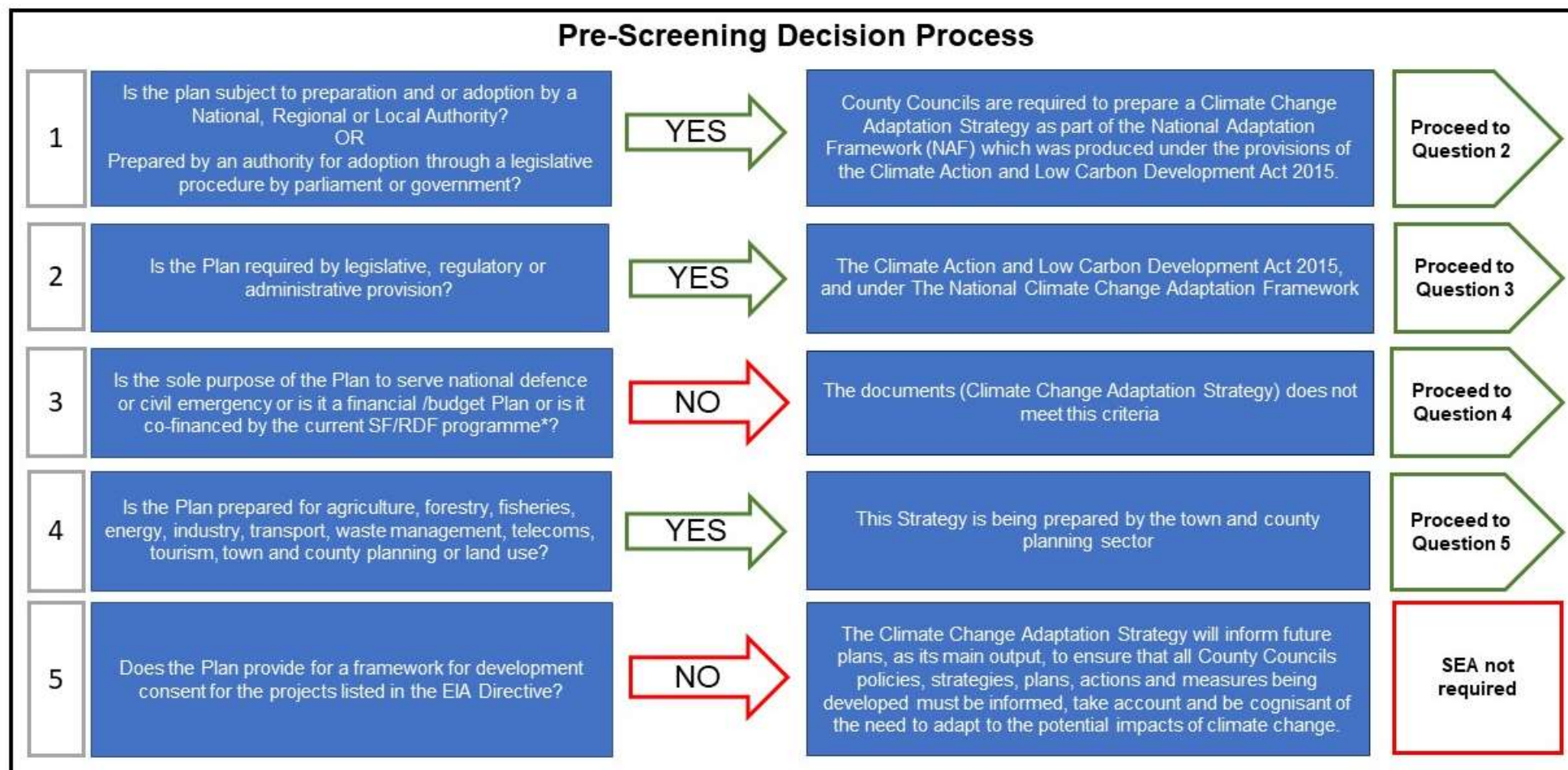
In order to determine if this Strategy is considered a plan/programme under Article 3 of the SEA Directive, a pre-screening check is necessary. Figure 1 below provides details of the pre-screening checklist; this checklist is based on the decision tree published by the EPA in the *Development of SEA methodologies for plans and programmes in Ireland*.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

<sup>4</sup> P. Scott & P. Marsden., 2001-EEP/DS-2/5 *Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland* Synthesis Report © Environmental Protection Agency 2003





\*SF/RDF: Structural Funds and Regional Development Funds under Council Regulation (EC) Nos. 1260/99 and 1257/99 which operate programming periods of 2000–2006 and 2000–2007, respectively.

FIGURE 1 PRE-SCREENING DECISION PROCESS

## 5 SEA SCREENING DETERMINATION

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was also screened using the criteria contained in Annex II of the SEA Directive. Table 2 and Table 3 below, details the screening assessment using the *criteria for determining the likely significance of effects* as set out in the SEA Directive, Annex II.

**TABLE 4 SCREENING DETERMINATION FOR ANNEX II (1.), CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS**

<b>The Characteristics of the Plan and Programmes having regard, in particular, to, the following criteria</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Screening Determination</b>
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	<p>The purpose of this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is to identify the risks to Monaghan County associated with climate change, and to set strategic goals, objectives and actions to adapt to these changes.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy forms part of Ireland's national strategy for climate adaptation as set out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was produced under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council's Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, if adopted, will not set a framework for future development consent of projects, i.e. projects listed in both Annex I and Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.</p>
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	<p>This Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will inform other future plans, as its main output, to ensure that Monaghan County Councils policies, strategies, plans, actions and measures being developed must be informed, take account and be aware of the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Future individual county development policies, strategies, plans and projects must be considered under the SEA, EIA and/or AA processes.</p>
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	As the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is aimed at integrating climate change adaptation into Monaghan County Councils plans, strategies and management team's agendas, the climate change adaptation measures will be implemented via future plans.

	<p>The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy's main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies and plans for Monaghan County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Individual county development policies, strategies, plans and projects must be considered individually under the SEA, EIA and/or AA process.</p>
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	<p>The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy looks to integrate climate change adaptation into Monaghan County Council as a management function and/or an important criterion to be considering in developing Local Authority Plans or Actions. The climate change adaptation actions taken will be implemented via future plans as its main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies, plans and measures for Monaghan County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Individual county development policies, strategies, plans and projects must be considered individually under the SEA, EIA and/or AA process.</p>
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	<p>As the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is aimed at integrating climate change adaptation into identified Monaghan County Councils Plans and Strategies and future Plans and Strategies, with some specific actions to help raise awareness of climate change both within management team and the wider public in Monaghan County, these actions can support plans and programmes that are related to waste generation, management, flood resilience and protection.</p> <p>However, these climate change adaptation actions will be implemented via future plans as its main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies, plans and measures for Monaghan County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.</p>

**TABLE 5 SCREENING DETERMINATION FOR ANNEX II (2.), CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS**

<b>Characteristics of the Effects and of the Area Likely to be Affected, taking account of the following criteria</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Screening Determination</b>
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is aimed at integrating climate change adaptation into the Local Authorities plans, strategies and management agendas, this in itself will help develop climate resilience.
The cumulative nature of the effects	
The transboundary nature of the effects	
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	The climate change adaptation actions will be implemented via future plans as its main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies, plans and measures developed by Monaghan County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</i></li> <li>- <i>exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; and</i></li> <li>- <i>intensive land-use.</i></li> </ul>	Individual policies, strategies, plans and measures must be considered individually under the SEA, EIA and/or AA process.
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	Any and all effects uncovered as part of this process will be considered in relation to the characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected and the process will have regard, in particular, to the criteria as listed, according to the legislation.

## 6 CONCLUSION

This SEA Screening Report was carried out in order to determine the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment for Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy prepared under the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework. It has been concluded, based on the pre-screening check, and review against the environmental significance criteria as set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive, that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. This is due to the fact that this Strategy does not provide a framework for development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive. Furthermore, the purpose of this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is to inform Local Authority policies, procedures and further plans on the need to incorporate climate change adaptation measures and it does not set out projects, plans or specific measures.

## **APPENDIX 1 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY – ACTIONS**

G1 Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations	Actions
1	Establish an adaptation Steering Group with appropriate staff representatives from across all key departments of Monaghan County Council to ensure the successful implementation of the actions of this Climate Change Adaptation strategy and to report on progress.
2	Ensure that Climate Action is listed as a standing item on the agenda of the Management Team meetings.
3	Appoint a designated Climate Action officer
4	Explore the possibility for Monaghan County Council to expand its service delivery to include Climate Action as a new core function which would inform on Climate action measures, progress awareness raising campaigns, and manage funding for potential local climate change action projects.
5	Building on adaptation planning actions set out in this strategy, support and compliment the practical implementation of actions arising from the National Climate Action Plan – to Tackle Climate Breakdown (as revised and updated annually), across the broad range of functions of the local authority to achieve the national climate ambition i.e. decarbonisation targets to 2030 and objectives to 2050.
6	Embed Climate Adaptation as an integral consideration in the objectives of the new Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan.
7	Embed Climate Adaptation into the 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.
8	Promote green procurement for goods, services and works to support environmental and wider sustainable development objectives to assist in balancing cost effectiveness and sustainable development, representing both short term and long term value for money.
9	Support The Climate Action Steering Group in overseeing the effective mainstreaming of Adaptation measures into all plans, programmes, strategies and policies of Monaghan County Council:
10	Liaise, collaborate and work in partnership local communities and with the sectors identified in the NAF, subject to funding, in the delivery of the Government approved sectoral adaptation actions, where they relate and are relevant to the functions and activities of the council at local level/in local communities.
11	Support Waste Management policies for the reduction of waste and other initiatives that promote the transition to a circular economy and as per the objectives of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan.
12	Build expertise, capacity and increase the knowledge base within Monaghan County Council through targeted and relevant training programmes on Climate Change and its implications on the operations and functions of the council. Training programmes could for example include the delivery of Climate Change awareness training to staff, Councillors and community groups.
13	<p>Establish a centralised reporting system for all information relating to extreme weather events. Information supplied to this repository system could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Description of Impacts on service delivery</li> <li>•Reports of incidents supported by photographic evidence and location details.</li> <li>•Estimates of repair costs incurred.</li> <li>•Details of resources deployed during the event and post event</li> <li>•Details of any departmental funding sourced and recouped for repair or preventative works.</li> </ul>
14	<p>Develop a Business Continuity Plan to identify and address specifically, the impacts associated with extreme weather events on all council buildings and on all functions/services of the local authority and explore potential opportunities to increase resilience. This will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing for critical services disruptions,</li> <li>- Assessment of the Local Authority's back-up system's infrastructure and review of power outage back-up procedures to ensure resilience.</li> <li>- Assessment of staff working environments during extreme temperatures.</li> <li>- Developing a network access contingency plan for identified essential key staff to be able to access all essential council systems remotely.</li> <li>- Ensuring contingency and response measures are in place for energy shortages, power outages, and damage from extreme weather.</li> </ul>
15	Assess Monaghan County Council's vehicle policy and undertake vehicle suitability assessments for effective operation in challenging conditions.
16	Develop an internal communication protocol and travel protocol for extreme weather events.
17	Identify and source funding streams (e.g. Leader Program) for the implementation of adaptation actions and measures across County Monaghan.
18	Through the work of the LEO, support businesses in integrating climate change considerations into existing business practices and operations and in developing existing and new ideas seeking to capture opportunities associated with environmental and technological advances that support low carbon transition.

G2 Infrastructure and Built Environment	Actions
1	Integrate climate considerations into the design, planning and construction of all road infrastructural projects undertaken by Monaghan County Council.
2	Undertake a Risk Assessment of existing road infrastructure in vulnerable areas to identify the severity of climate change risks on their function and condition.
3	Record and document severe weather events and impact on road infrastructure as a baseline approach to future planning. Represent the information visually through GIS mapping (potential app for wider use) to help identify future diversionary routes and quickly mobilize action and a prepared response.
4	<p>Explore ways to minimise the expected increase in maintenance requirements and costs to road infrastructure from climate stress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate climate change considerations at design stages.</li> <li>• Explore the climate resilience of materials used in road construction and maintenance.</li> <li>• Examine options to reduce road settlement due to severe weather events</li> <li>• Assessment of gulley clearing and maintenance plans with aim to become more proactive to reduce costs in the future</li> </ul>
5	<p>Increase the resilience of Monaghan County Council buildings and housing stock through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the identification and assessment of the integrity of old and derelict buildings to reduce the threats posed.</li> <li>• the assessment of buildings occupied and owned by Monaghan County Council after extreme events to ensure structural integrity</li> </ul>
6	Apply a robust risk assessment to Local Authority housing stock to identify and protect against the impacts of climate change and mitigate against service disruption.
7	<p>Review ways to improve house building and maintenance plan standards to reduce the impacts of climate change on occupants taking into consideration the proposed Public Sector Decarbonisation Strategy.</p> <p>This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessing the need to increase repair standards and maintenance frequency to mitigate against the expected increase in structure deterioration during extreme events and expected plant growth during growing season.</li> <li>- Exploring the need and benefit of updating or installing new technologies in new builds and when retrofitting including energy efficient technology, water harvesting systems, plumbing technology, and heating and cooling systems</li> </ul>

G3 Landuse and Development	Actions
1	Identify and integrate climate change as a critical consideration and guiding principle informing core strategy, strategic objectives, policies and development control strategies of the County Development Plan.
2	Promote climate-smart building and urban design performance outcomes in development standards through the planning and development process.
3	Promote the integrated planning, design and delivery of green infrastructure (e.g. parks, green areas, tree provision) to promote the wider benefits of green infrastructure such as the provision of shading to alleviate heat stress, the supporting of urban biodiversity, the provision of water retention and flood alleviation, and improving air quality.
4	<p>Incorporate measures in accordance with section 10 (n) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) for: (n) the promotion of sustainable settlement and transportation strategies in urban and rural areas including the promotion of measures to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) reduce energy demand in response to the likelihood of increases in energy and other costs due to long-term decline in non-renewable resources,</li> <li>(ii) reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and</li> <li>(iii) address the necessity of adaptation to climate change;</li> </ul> <p>in particular, having regard to location, layout and design of new development.</p>
	Promote development in County Monaghan that encourages clean electricity, minimises fossil fuel consumption, encourages sustainable land-use and promotes community energy cooperatives.
5	Promote development in County Monaghan that encourages clean electricity, minimises fossil fuel consumption, and promotes sustainable landuse.
6	<p>Encourage policy to support and develop Electric Vehicle (EV) charging Infrastructure on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites owned and occupied by Monaghan County Council.</li> <li>• Private sites through supportive policies and development control standards of the County Development Plan.</li> </ul>



G4 Drainage and Flood Management	Actions
1	Work with the OPW In progressing the CFRAM Flood risk management plans in Co Monaghan to prioritise projects to reduce flood risk and provide for detailed mapping of areas prone to surface water and groundwater flood risk.
2	Incorporate considerations of the impact of climate change into proposals submitted under the OPW Minor Works Programme to ensure that measures proposed are adaptable to future climatic changes.
3	Develop a severe weather event maintenance plan, to ensure, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•an appropriate stock of sand bags and other flood minimisation supplies.</li> <li>•gully maintenance and cleaning programs.</li> </ul>
4	Ensure that flood event emergency response plans are reviewed annually to ensure the appropriate resource capacity is in place to provide an effective emergency response.
5	Incorporate the requirement for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems where appropriate in local authority projects and private development sites.
6	Ensure that potential future flood information is obtained by way of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and used to inform suitable adaptation requirements within the Development Management process in line with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Flood Risk Management (DoECLG & OPW, 2009).
8	Ensure that appropriate urban storm water drainage systems for new developments provide for the future potential impacts of climate change.

G5 Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure	Actions
1	Develop a strategy to undertake and implement an active native Tree Planting programme in collaboration with community groups in the context of climate adaptation in conjunction with an awareness campaign that informs of the benefits to communities of improving air quality, offsetting carbon emissions, promoting biodiversity, protecting surface waters against eutrophication, limiting flood risk, reducing urban heat, as well as aesthetic value, whilst ensuring appropriate trees are provided in appropriate locations
2	Promote Green Infrastructure through the protection and nurturing of existing and natural ecosystems and make provision for the integration of appropriate landscape and planting schemes in infrastructural and community projects delivered by Monaghan County Council.
3	Promote the integration of biodiversity into private developments through the planning process.
4	Integrate natural borders/buffers as an integral component of the design of greenways, tracks and trails, and amenity areas to promote natural enhancement.
5	Develop and implements an awareness campaign around the role of the natural environment and its positive contribution to Climate Adaptation.
6	Examine methods or new technologies for the watering of plants/trees (i.e. gator system) and promote the selection of suitable native species that require minimal watering.
7	Explore ways to decrease siltation debris during periods of high run-off periods to reduce Eutrophication. (such as promotion of integrated constructed wetlands, swales and other sustainable drainage systems.
8	Review the actions and objectives of the Bio-diversity Plan to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•that risks from adverse climate change have been identified;</li> <li>•that future changes are assessed, and measures to address issues identified</li> <li>•promotion of the National Pollinator Plan</li> </ul>
9	Explore more environmentally friendly methods to control weed growth and to reduce the spread of invasive species.
10	Explore ways of protecting wetlands and sensitive sites from inappropriate infilling activities, drainage activities and eutrophication
11	Work closely with communities, landowners, state agencies to progress the conservation of wetland areas and other sensitive biodiverse sites as appropriate and promote awareness of the environmental benefits of such sites. (e.g. through the Ballybay Wetlands Centre)
12	Undertake a review of the key Heritage and Cultural Assets in the county to assess their vulnerability from the impacts of climate change and to help build resilience and to identify and progress remedial measures for these important assets.
13	Identify resilience measures to weather extremes of historical/heritage buildings owned and operated by Monaghan County Council.

G6 Community Health and Wellbeing	Actions
1	Develop targeted climate change public awareness campaigns and training programs to increase knowledge, encourage behavioural change, and build resilience in communities around climate change and severe weather events.
2	Explore ways in which Monaghan County Council can assist vulnerable and isolated people and communities in becoming more climate resilient.
3	Identify funding opportunities to deliver local climate action projects.
4	Encourage all community groups (e.g. Tidy Towns group)s to consider climate change adaptation in their multi annual plans and programs
5	Encourage more communities to actively pursue projects to reduce energy consumption and reduce their carbon footprint. .
6	For future community development projects ensure that climatic resilience is incorporated at design stage.
7	For future community projects seeking public funding through Monaghan County Council, integrate climate change and biodiversity considerations as criteria for assessment in order to promote climate resilience.
8	For any significant festivals / events in the County, integrate climate change and biodiversity considerations at the planning and development stage.
9	Promote walking, cycling, active participation and healthy living and the development of infrastructure to support this.